Six-wicket Headley... a wizard in Oz SPORT page 40

The joy of the junk shop addict

Bronwen Maddox



How to tell if a man is handsome

page 3



Three Britons killed in shoot-out

Tourist hostages die in botched rescue

By Stephen Farrell and Richard Duce

THREE British hostages and one Australian were killed and three other Westerners injured in Yemen yesterday when government troops stormed the hideout of an Islamic kidnap

gang.
The botched rescue attempt in the remote southern town of al-Wadeaa was launched by security forces the day after terrorists demanding the release of their leaders seized 16 tour-

Ten of the holidaymakers were last night safely back in Aden amid confusion over the circumstances of the rescue attempt. It came within hours of the Yemeni authorities and Victor Henderson, the British Ambassador, expressing optimism over a peaceful end to

the incident. A police officer and two kid-nappers, were said to have been killed while three policemen and two kidnappers were

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Critics of the decision to use force saw it as a misguided attempt to appear istrong in the face of continuing kidnen are tempts. There have been more than \$100 and \$100 an than 100 abditional 1992 but tutil now none have ended in death_

However, the Yemenis claim that the operation was launched after the captors had already begun shooting the

"The operation started after abductors started killing hos-tages." They killed two, and then our forces stormed them to prevent the killing of more hostages," the official said.

David Pearce, deputy head of mission at the British Embassy in the capital Sanaa, yes-terday travelled to Aden where the injured and rescue parties were staying, to identify the victims. He said the freed hostages had been taken to a hotel where British and American volunteers were helping them. They are obviously in a state of severe shock, and I mean se-

vere shock," he said. They are uninjured but obviously very tired, very sturmed and in need of a good meal, a good rest and someone

to talk to. They have been

BRONWEN MADDOX

CHRIST & BRIDGE -: 33

FEMTURES #4.15

PROPERTY 28

BUSINESS _____21-27

Euro faultlines

Some political parties in east

Germany are using opposi-

tion to the euro as an excuse

for racism Faultfines of the

Buying The Planet overhead
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new Europe

Dangerous Yemen.....Page 5 Leading article.......Page 17

can and two Australian tourists were kidnapped at llam on Monday by around 20 men armed with bazookas and Kal-

Habban to Aden. IS-day, £1,300 trip, said the kid-nappers, thought to belong to blocked the convoy by driving one of its vehicles in between the first and second car, allow-ing the occupants of the lead-

the alarm. Sue Ockwell, a spokeswom-an for the boliday firm, mast-

were away for Christmas.

Explore Worldwide are supreme specialists in operating in such countries. They followed the Foreign Office advice to the letter. I do not think

The second secon

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INSIDE

this. There was no inkling of anything on this particular stretch of road," Ms Ockwell

through an awful experience." The 12 British, two Ameriashnikow assault rifles at a roadblock near Mawdiyah, 175 miles south of the capital. They were travelling in five four-wheel drive vehicles from Britain.

Explore Worldwide, the holiday firm which organised the a group named Islamic Jihad. ing vehicle to escape and raise

keep in touch with develop-ments. The firm was last night trong to contact the night of kin, but said some had proved difficult to find because they

Explore Worldwide's offers of trips for the adventurous

anyone could have foreseen The Aldershot-based company's brochure offers trips to regions inhabited by "a colourful people whose medieval way of life has hardly changed. The company, which took 220 people to Yemen this year, described all the hostages as "seasoned travel-lers". In 1997 there were 84,000 foreign tourists to the Yemen, including 6,385 from

in the past, hostage-takers from tribes in remote mountainous areas have tended to free their captives in return for ransoms or government promises to improve the infrastructure of their regions, such as new roads, electricity supplies or schools.

But the reported involve-ment of Islamic fihad sig-nalled something more serious and the Yemem Government is thought to have iannehed the raid in an atmpt to appear decisive in its

said the gunmen appeared to have received military training and were demanding the ase of two leaders. Islamic Jihad in Yemen is believed to be about 200-strong, made up of Arab volunteers who fought with the Mujahidin against the Russians in Afghanistan. It has a training camp in the mountains around Abyan which was recently closed down by the Government and is thought to have links with Egyptian Islamic groups.

Some reports claimed the kidnappers had demanded an end to sanctions against Iraq, timing the ultimatum to coin-

Yemen by Muhammad Said al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister. Before the deaths Mr Henderson had been optimistic, saying earlier in the day that the Yemeni Ministry of the Interior had assured him that it knew where the hostages were being held and had reports that they were safe and well.

cide with a three-day visit to



Armed Yemeni tribesmen on patrol in the area where the hostages were killed

1998: a TV & RAISTO ____ 3839 WESTLIER 28. CROSSWORDS 26.68 LETTES 17 year of disaster

The world is being hit by three times as many natural disasters as it was in the 1960s experts said as they declared 1998 the most disaster-ridden

Studies by Munich Re, one of the biggest re-insurance companies, indicate that the typhoons, storms and fleods are costing many billions of dol-

lars more than 30 years ago. The cost the world's economies, after adjusting for infla-tion, is nine times higher and for the insurance industry three times as much, said a price of some "off-peak" holi-spokesman Page 7 days. A family of four will save

Holiday threat for children

BY JOHN O'LEARY EDUCATION EDITOR

TRAVEL companies are to be asked to warn parents in broehures that they risk damaging children's education by taking them away in term-time. The move comes after an appeal by ministers for help in stemming the growth in unauthorised absence from school. Official figures out this month show a l per cent increase in truancy, much of it condoned by parents. The National Association of Head Teachers says today that the rise is due partly to families taking advantage of bargains. . Tour operators halve the

more than £1,600 on a fortnight with Eclipse Holidays in a four-star hotel on Spain's Costa Brava by going in May rather than August. They would save almost a third on a Thomson Holiday in Turkey. A head teachers' survey showed one secondary school lost more than 1,000 pupil days to holidays in the past year. David Hart, NAHT general secretary, said: "Promotion of cheap family holi-

days is a major factor." Civil servants have been holding talks with the travel industry for several months after a joint intervention by Estelle Morris, School Standards Minister, and the Bangladeshi courage Bangladeshis from taking children out of school for family visits. Airlines serving Dhaka agreed not to raise fares during school holidays. With head teachers reporting package holidays to be a growing cause of absenteeism, ministers hoped for a similar agreement with tour compa-

nies. The Association of Brit-

ish Travel Agents said yester-

day that pricing changes were unlikely, being governed by demand But it is issuing a sug-

gested insert for brochures. Children are allowed up to ten days away from school, at a head's discretion. Mr Hart said that increasingly parents were treating that as a right. Broken homes were also blamed, children taking main

Shares reach five-month high

London shares sprang to a five-month high yesterday, shaking off a fears about Friday's introduction of the

The FTSE100 jumped 74.3 points to 5941.5 in a performance which dealers dubbed the "Santa Claus Rally." In New York, shares leapt to just a few points short of their 1998

Wet beginning

faces a wet and windy start to the year as thousands of people struggle to repair gale damage. Many homes in Scotland were without electricity

Agnew and the ecstasy as England win

BY PETER BARNARO

LATE December in Britain: the usual LATE December in Britain: the usual coach. Sack the players. Start writing grim morning Strait. Declaress into English cricket's obimary. Again. Ing to grey daylight. Communers in Switch to a music station. Change cars, wondering why their turn to go lanes. How does even light holiday to work in his particular week comes trailing cause tailbacks? Another 40 minutes pass. Switch back to the Test. Australia need 13 to win with three wickets gor and lanes glanging agends. Try Ratio I long was around 1.25 m. The poices of the Test Match. Were at the microphones when it happened. Agnew has reported so much 12,000 miles against the microphones when it happened. Agnew has reported so much 12,000 miles against the microphones when it happened. Agnew has reported so much 12,000 miles against the microphones when it happened. Agnew has reported so much 12,000 miles against the microphones when it happened. Agnew has reported so much 12,000 miles against the microphones when it happened and need only 45 runs to win the only. Now, Agnew retierated for neonle

fourth Test in Melbourne. Humiliation looms. Sack the selectors. Sack the coach. Sack the players. Start writing English cricket's obinary. Again.

for 3 and need only 45 runs to win the ony. Now, Agnew reiterated for people on a whole new meaning. Darren

just tuning in how Australia had claimed the extra hour to finish off England yesterday. How Alec Stewart had protested in vain. The England bowlers are exhausted. Agnew said. This is ridiculous, he said. And then...

Ecstatic cricket experiences are markedly different from more conventional theatres of ecstasy. In this particular case the foreplay lasted nearly three days even if the climar was more typically swift, starting with Dean Headley having Nicholson caught behind: 161 for 8. It was 8.26am.

Suddenly in-car entertainment took

Gough steamed in, bowled MacGill for a duck and had McGrath leg before, also for a duck. England had won a Test match in Australia for only the second time in 13 years. The margin of

victory was 12 runs; it felt like 1,200. At 8.33am, when England sealed victory. Agnew, Selvey and the travelling Barmy Army were linked to thousands of drivers, one hand on the wheel and the other saluting the skies. Dunkirk had turned into Normandy. And not an American in sight.

Leading article, page 17 Match reports, pages 36, 37, 40

Foreign Office tells travellers to quit Yemen

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Foreign Office yesterday urged all British tourists to leave Yemen as soon as possible after the killing of three Britons and an Australian in an attempt to rescue them from their kidnappers.

In an urgent update of its travel advice, it also warned anyone whose visit was not essential not to go to Yemen. And it said all British citizens living in Yemen should be extra vigilant and prudent. The advice will be sent to all

tour operators who arrange holidays in Yemen, an increasingly popular destination. The 84,000 tourists last year included 6,385 Britons, most of whom joined tours focusing on the country's medieval architecture, fortified villages and remote mountain ranges. Until yesterday the Foreign Office had simply warned tourists to be aware of the risk of "random kidnapping" in the country. It said that those abducted had generally been

ly released after mediation. Many British visitors on organised tours are older professional people, able to afford prices of about £2,000 for 15-day tours. However, younger tourists have been attracted recently by opportunities to visit remote areas of the ancient home of the Queen of Sheba.

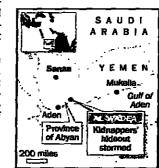
well-treated and were eventual-

Penny Hughes, a British tourist who returned from Yemen last month, said: "You do need to have a guide because there are so many passport checks. It is not the sort of country that you can travel around freely. But we never felt in any danger and the people were incredibly friendly."

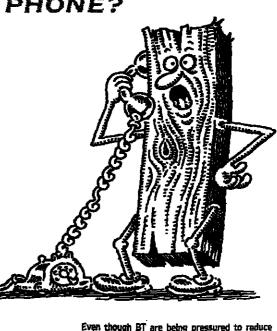
Although there are few Britons living in Yemen, many Yemenis have British passports and Yemenis constitute the biggest Arab community in Britain, including the renowned boxer "Prince" Naseem Hamed. Most settled in Cardiff and other ports generations ago when British ships

made regular runs to Aden. Hostage-taking has become an agonising issue. British diplomats usually urge local governments to negotiate and to avoid any actions that would endanger lives. Britain also insists that ransom should not be made - though this is the norm in Yemen. Apart from those seized on

Monday, seven other Britons were kidnapped this year, in Sudan, Angola, Chechnya and Yemen. Only two are still miss-ing and believed to be alive — Douglas Kear, who was kidnapped in August in the Congo, and Jason Pope, who was seized when an armed group attacked a diamond mine in the north of Angola. Nothing has been heard since 1995 of the two Britons seized in Kashmir, and hopes are fading that they are still alive.



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COMPAREONS HETELER PHONE: RATES TO MOSILE PHONES ARE APPLICABLE FIRST TELECOM EASY PHONE: RATES TO MOSILE PHONES ARE APPLICABLE TO THE 26TH FEBRUARY 1999. EASY PHONE RATES ARE CHARGED PER SECOND.

The feudal structure will be replaced with a system to encourage community buyouts and end the se-crecy surrounding private estates.

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Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, will announce on Tuesday a series of measures designed to help villagers and crofters take more control of their land while making the lairds more accountable.

Landowners are to lose all feudal titles and privileges, including the relationship of "superior" to "vassal" which has survived in Scotland from the reign of David 1 (1124-1153). However the Scottish

Landowners' Federation, which represents 80 per cent of lairds, has already accused the Government of acting without popular support.

The changes will be recommended by the Land Reform Policy Group, a government committee chaired by Lord Sewel, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Envi-

Andrew Dingwall-Fordyce, the federation's convener, said: "The policy group received a pathetic 360 responses out of five million Scots. and that is not a mandate for change. I'm very much against politicians playing with people's lives just to win a few votes." The reforms will be presented as the largest shake-up in land ownership since the Middle Ages, to be enacted when the Scottish parliament convenes in July. They are expected to centre on a new Land Fund. which would help bankroll commu-

nity bids to buy their estates when

All public information about pri-

the laird decides to sell.

vate estates will be collated for the first time, updating the ancient Register of Sasines which has been keeping records since 1617.

Aristocrats remain one of the most powerful landowning forces

the entire country is controlled by

Frazer Nelson reports on proposals to end eight centuries of dominance by aristocratic landowners

The Duke of Buccleuch, a Conservative Party activist and a descendant of Charles II, is Britain's largest private landowner, controlling 270,000 acres centred in Dumfries on the Scottish barders.

Captain Alwyn Farquharson owns 120,000 acres near Invercauld and estates bordering the Queen's Balmoral estate, the cornerstone of her 52,000-acre holding. The most powerful woman aristocrat is the Countess of Sutherland, whose ancestors carried out much of the Highland Clearances

which are still blamed for the de-

population in tural Scotland. She owns 123,000 acres including the Dunrobin Castle.

Peter Peacock, convenor of Highland Council, said that land reform would have happened sooner had it not been for fear that the House of Lords would side with the landown-

He said: "We could never have got these reforms through at Westminster because the House of Lords would have opposed us root and branch. The Scottish Parliament will not have to answer to a second chamber, so the changes are only possible now.

The SNP, now Labour's largest

political opponent in Scotland, has said land reform will become the first measure passed by cross-party consensus. However, it has accused Labour of devising a "cheapskate" version with minimal cash for the

Land Fund. Rob Gibson, a member of the SNP's National Executive, said: "Lord Sewel may be well-meaning. but because he has ruled out major. investment we will obviously get a botched project. But we have long argued for abolishing the tyranny of the feudal system, so we will be

glad when it comes." The feudal system, which still uses the terms "superiors" and "vassals", will be looked at by the Scottish Law Commission which is keen to retain the concept of "real burdens" - guarantees that certain aspects of the estate will always re-

main unaltered. Lord Sewel's committee is expected to recommend altering the land sale process, demanding that all deals are advertised for 30 days to

give communities a chance to bid. The Government could have the power to delay any sale by another 30 days if a community buyout team needed more time to piece its offer together.

All the reforms will remain recommendations until they are passed by the Scottish parliament

Lainds' fear, page 25

NEWS IN BRIEF

Catholic

cab driver

bombed

Loyalist terrorists were blamed last night for bombing the home of a Roman

Catholic taxi driver in Armagh. A device outside the front room window of Michael O'Connor's home

showered his wife, Kay, with

broken glass but she escaped

injury.

The couple's daughters.

aged five, eight and 11, were

asleep in a separate room

when the blast bomb, contain-

ing metal shards, exploded

shortly before midnight on Monday. Mr O'Connor was

at work, driving for a firm in a.

planted by loyalists. But secu-

rity sources believe rivalry be-

tween two taxi companies was

also involved. "It may be a loy-.

alist mob became involved in

Murder inquiry

Detectives investigating the

have links with the outlawed: Ulster Defence Association

have stepped up their bunt for

the killers. George Edgar, 37.

a father of two who had

served ten years in prison for

minder was shot several times at point blank range as

as he left a masonic lodge gar-

a row," said one source.

Police said the bomb was

Catholic area of Armagh.

'Severity test' will make waiting lists fairer, say doctors

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS needing an operation should be given a "severity score" to show how quickly they should undergo surgery, the British Medical Association says today.

Devising a system that takes into account social, clinical and quality of life factors would lead to a fairer, more transparent waiting list management system, a report says. Guidelines would be drawn up for a wide range of operations so that a patient knew that the same priorities existed throughout the country.

The report says that a new method is needed because the Government's focus on reducing waiting lists has raised concerns in the profession that the clinical priority of patients is in danger of being forgotten.

Recent announcements of ex-

THE income of private hospi-

tals is estimated to have risen

by 10 per cent this year as

more people choose to pay for

Last year the income of inde-

pendent hospitals and clinics

rose 6 per cent to £1.425 bil-

lion, reports the authoritative

Laing's Healthcare Market

Review, which predicts this

At present 13 per cent of elec-

tive operations are carried out

in the private sector, an in-

crease of 1 per cent over the

year. Another 3 per cent of GP

consultations are paid for pri-

vately with a growing

number of healthcare insur-

ance companies providing cov-

er for this kind of primary

"Most private hospital

strong levels of demand in

1998," said William Laing, edi-

tor of the Review, which is pub-

lished today. "It remains to be

seen what impact any econom-

ic downturn in 1999 will have.

but to date at least the Labour

have experienced

medical care.

year's increase.

bers on waiting lists are likely to lead to the easier cases being brought forward, the report says. This will certainly achieve the political wish for fewer people on the list in the short term but those remaining are likely to represent those with more complex conditions and quite likely those who have waited longer.

Since the Patient's Charter says no one should wait more than 18 months for an operation, someone with a very minor condition who has been on the list for that length of time may overtake someone with a greater clinical need simply to allow the hospital to meet the target. The report says that this could have expensive legal consequences if a patient "overtaken" subsequently dies because of the delay.

Government does not seem to

have dented demand for pri-

struggling to control waiting

lists, and with ever more visi-

ble rationing within the NHS.

a significant and growing

number of people continue to opt for private healthcare,

paid for out of their own pock-

ets if not by medical insur-

But private nursing and resi-

dential homes are finding it in-

creasingly difficult to survive.

They earned £6.4 billion over

the year but margins are so small that many homes serv-

ing the lower end of the mar-

Local authorities are increas-

ing their baseline fee rates by

less than inflation, while staff

shortages mean that home op-

erators have to employ more

Homes catering for wealthi-

er clients can charge up to £40

a week more than the fees

which local authorities are

expensive agency workers.

ket are in difficulty.

With the Government still

vate healthcare.

More people use

private hospitals

ticism over the accuracy of waiting lists published by the Health Department. A review of those waiting for more than six months usually shows that many patients have been referred elsewhere, some are better, some have died and others

have moved away. Scoring systems to set clinical priorities are being tried out in other countries. New Zealand is introducing a system which identifies which patients are likely to derive substantial health benefit, taking account of competing claims on resources.

The Canadian province of Ontario is piloting a system devised to identify which patients waiting for heart surgery have greatest need. Sweden has a scoring arrangement for cataract operations which takes into account the need for help or inability to

At Guy's Hospital in London surgeons graded 22 conditions to work out which were the most beneficial, taking into account clinical as well as quality of life factors and the availability of resources.

None of the systems so far tried is foolproof. The report says that factors such as shortage or inefficient use of resources, inappropriate referrais, out of date records and poor management all contrib-

ute to long waiting lists. However, Peter Hawker, chairman of the BMA's consultants and specialist committee, is convinced of the need for change. "We must move away from the present focus this Government has on total numbers waiting for surgery and look at the clinical priority of those awaiting surgery," he

"I know that if patients un-derstood why they were waiting, to let someone with a greater clinical need receive their surgery, then they would not mind the slightly longer wait they themselves may have to face."

He said that the long-term aim should be to ensure nobody waited more than a year for an operation, but even then it was essential that patients received surgery according to clinical need.



ELIZABETH MAJOR, the daughter of the former Prime Minister, shows off her engagment ring after becoming engaged to ber long-term boy-friend. Luke Salter (Claudia Joseph writes).

Mr Salter, 26, a medical student. asked Miss Major. 27, a veterinary nurse, to marry him as they celebrated Christmas with her parents, John and Norma, at the family home in Great Stukeley, Cambridgeshire. It comes seven months after her brother James proposed on bended knee to Emma Noble, a television game show hostess.

Major's girl accepts a discreet proposal

while on holiday in Monte Carto.

together for two years, are expected to get married quietly when Mr Salter, a third-year student at Leicester University, qualifies as a doctor.

Although they have been dating for more than three years, they have managed to conduct their relationship dis-

Noble, 27, who resumes her stage role in the Ben Elton play Popcorn in February, are expected to have a more

marry next June. Mr Major said yesterday: "Norma and I are absolutely. delighted. It was the best Christmas present we could have possibly had. Luke will

glittering affair when they

be a very welcome addition to

the family."
Miss Major has known Mr Salter since she was a teenager, when she joined the Huntingdon Youth Orchestra. She played the clarinet and he played the French hort

Mr Salter said that he had been planning to propose at Christmas for some time. "It's been no secret that I wasn't interested in anyone else and that we were going to be to-gether. I had had the ring for about six weeks, but I had it planned for a long time. Both

Death in ditch

A woman has died after talling into a ditch as she walked home from the pub. Jyon Patel, 32, was last seen afive on Sunday evening at her local village pub at Hayden near Cheltenham in Gloucestershire. She was found the next day in the ditch 150 yards away. Gloucestershire police are not treating the death as

Bug hits cancer

A disarmed food bug could be used to target cancer cells, killing them while leaving healthy cells unharmed. Experiments in the US by Vion Pharmaceuticals have shown that salmonella bacteria, a major cause of food poisoning, can be made harmless and used to carry anti-cancer drugs into tumours, slowing

100

BBC tops ratings

The BBC has been declared the winner in the Christmas ratings war. It trounced ITV to claim seven of the top ten most popular programmes over the weekend. The most watched television programme of the Christmas period was a programme of the Christmas period was a programme of the Christmas period was programmed to the christmas period was period was period was programmed to the christmas period was per od was BBCl's EastEnders on Bank Holiday Monday, which achieved an audience of 15.7 million

Battery pig ban

Marks & Spencer this week becomes the first retailer to impose a ban on all battery farmed pork products. The chain has outlawed any meat from pigs reared in stalls and tethers, a method which increases litters but which keeps sows confined in a narrow metal pen while chained to a slatted concrete floor during pregnancy.

Police urged to switch batons

NEW batons carried by thousands of police are strongly criticised today in a report by the Police Complaints Authority.

After a two-year study, the PCA raised

questions over the safety of, and training for, two out of the three common designs issued by 43 forces in England and Wales to replace the old-fashioned wood-

One of the new batons is the side-handled design adopted in two versions by 23 forces. The authority found that the 611-gram baton, the heaviest in service, led to more complaints than any other. A rigid version of the baton produced an average of 3.85 complaints per 1,000 officers in 1996-97 and 3.93 in 1997-98 while an extended version led 240 and 267 com-

The authority warns chief constables

Complaints body wants

less dangerous design,

writes Stewart Tendler

that officers need careful and frequent training for the weapons.

The Asp or Casco, a thin, extendable baton used by 19 forces led to 2.84 complaints per 1,000 officers in 1996-97 and 2.38 last year. The design can inflict more pain than other batons, and the authority also noted that the metal tip can become dangerously worn.

The authority found that forces using the Asp have trained their officers with American manuals that have not been properly amended for British policing conditions and the authority warns that officers may have been trained too ag-

gressively.
Although the authority does not call on forces to give up the extendable or sidehandled batons the report found that a simple and lighter long baton, the Arnold, can "markedly reduce a force's complaints". It produced the lowest rate of complaint at 1.66 and 1.78 per 1,000 offic-

Only the Metropolitan police. Dorset, Essex, Northumbria and Staffordshire use the baton. The authority found that several have almost eliminated all complaints about the use of batons by having frequent training sessions.

Six small forces recorded no complaints about batons in 1997-98, including the Dorset force, which uses the Arnold

Solicitors try to spin their way into public's heart

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS have turned to spin-doctors in an attempt to rid the profession of its staid and stuffy image and counter "fat cat" accusations.

The move follows findings from focus groups of lawyers who complained that their public image was of middleaged male money-grabbers. As a result, the profession's governing body, the Law Society, is to pay £60,000 for public

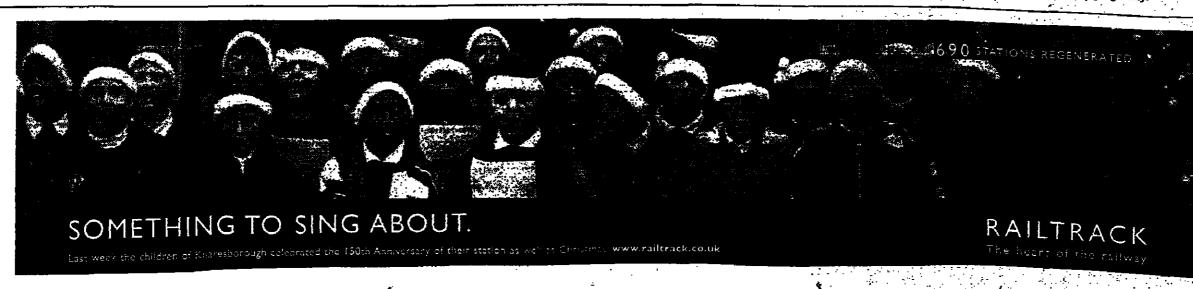
relations advice. The focus groups also expressed concern that the esteem of the law and the profession had diminished at a time when lawyers had been under assault from Conservative and Labour governments over alleged abuses of legal aid.

A Law Society spokesman said yesterday: "The profession itself was concerned at the image that still persists. Solicitors are still seen as 'fat cats' and distant, who are rather out of date and remote from people's lives." He added: "We were

male and over 40. It is not the truth. The average solicitor is under 40 and is not a man who dresses in a pinstripe soit and speaks with a posh accent."

The Law Society, whose headquarters in Chancery Lane, London, is redolent of a Victorian gentlemen's club, has hired Biss Lancaster. whose clients include Shell and Eurolighter, to help to improve the profession's image and public standing.

seen as conservative and dull,



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Top restaurant is fined for its filthy kitchen

ONE of Delia Smith's favour-ite restaurants pleaded guilty yesterday to seven breaches of food hygiene and safety regula-

The relevision cook is a regular customer at Brasted's, a cosy restaurant in the old part of Norwich. The restaurant is included in the Good Food Guide and the Michelin res-

taurant guide.
Sally Baits, representing
Norwich City Council, said
that environmental health inspectors had carried out a routine inspection at the restaurant on February 12, and in the upstairs kitchen had found encrusted debris of food, vegetable peelings, rice, eggshells, feathers, dirt and dust. They also found evidence of an es-tablished infestation of larder beetles, finding adult beetles and their larvae, known as woolly bears, in several areas.

Miss Baits said that the inspectors found work surfaces broken and separating, floor tiles broken and encrusted with dirt and dust, and light fit-

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Bits of food, dust and beetle larvae were discovered

by hygiene

officials, reports Robin Young

tings filthy. There were "extremely dirty" areas behind retrigerators and work units and, under some of the fit-tings, open floorboards had trapped considerable amounts of debris and grease.

Miss Baits said the inspectors were told by the assistant chef and kitchen porter on duty that there was no probe thermometer to test the internal temperature of cooked food, and no regular schedule for cleaning or inspecting the refrigerators.

There was no soap at the staff handbasin, and the only



John Brasted at Norwich Magistrates' Court yesterday

and not accessible without reaching across equipment and food. Some packets of pulses found in a plastic ice-cream container in one cupboard were nearly five years beyond their best-before date and many of the grains had been attacked by insects.

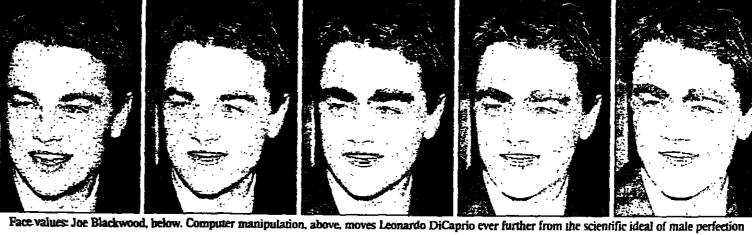
Makolm Savoury, appear-ing for John Brasted, the restaurant's proprietor, said that his client accepted that standards in the kitchen had slipped while he was trying to expand his business. He said that Mr Brasted had opened his restaurant in 1985 and had made it one of the most highly reputed in Norwich. But he added: "It is extremely difficult as a restaurateur outside the main conurbations to make the sort of profit most of us would accept as normal in business."

He said that Mr Brasted had attempted to solve his financial problems by expanding his outside catering operations, and in particular by starting an operation called Brasteds On The Park Although Brasteds On The Park had created an increase in turnover, he said, it had not contributed to profits, but had taken a great deal of Mr Brasted's management time and attention. It had closed a month after the inspection at the

Mr Savoury said that his client had taken immediate steps to remedy the situation. By mid-July it was accepted by Norwich's environmental health department that everything at the restaurant was satisfactory.

Mr Savourysaid that Mr Brasted was in "very real fear" of the consequences that the prosecution and attendant publicity would bring. "There have been cancellations," he said.

Sentencing Mr Brasted's company, Frazer Morrison, stipendiary magistrate. said that the penalties he imposed "have to be significant so that the message goes out to others with a duty to safeguard the public". He fined Brasted's Limited £350 on awarded £1,200 towards the council's prosecution costs.



The man who thinks he is Mr Handsome

A STUDENT has sent his photograph to The Guinness Book of Records, demanding to be entered as the "best-looking man in the world".

Joe Blackwood concedes that his friends may have been pulling his leg when they persuaded him to write. But, raising an unabashed eyebrow, he said yesterday: "! have always known I was handsome: it was only recently that I got the desire to do something about it.l don't feel there is anybody who can outdo me for looks, not even stars like Leonardo DiCaprio, Richard Gere or Keanu Reeves."

He was certain that it was not his wit. sensitivity or intellect that was deterring the ladies, concluding, with the help of friends, that he was simply too good-looking to find a girlfriend.

Mr Blackwood, 29, of Gloucester, who was an amaHelen Rumbelow

and Simon de Bruxelles on a student's vain claim to fame

mechanic before beginning a psychology degree 18 months ago, wrote to the publishers of the record book "to draw your attention to the fact that I am the most handsome man in the world and should be depicted and recorded in your book as this.

"I am taking the opportunity to present you with two photos as ultimate proof and I would like you to use the one that has been taken indoors next to the blue curtains."

A spokeswoman for Guinness Publishing said: "How can you measure beauty? It is not measurable and therefore we would not be able to introduce a category for this."

According to American stud-ies, a good-looking man must be above average height, have prominent cheekbones, a high forehead, a large jaw, a muscular torso, wrist and ankie symmetry, and a waist 90 per cent of his hip size. Apparently this type is picked out by women across the world.

A study published by Nature this year purportedly showed that most women found distinctively masculine features - such as heavy eyebrows, thin lips and large necks - unattractive, and preferred a softer face.

Whatever the pronouncements of scientists who seek to calibrate male beauty, they have never solved the problem that, for a man to be attractive, he must both be handsome and believe that he is not.

modified food ban

BY NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT -CORRESPONDENT

RAYMOND BLANC and Nico Ladenis are among lead-ing chefs who yesterday backed the campaign for a five-year ban on the commercial growing of genetically al-

tered crops.

A survey by Friends of the Earth of 23 chefs and restaurants in the Good Food Guide 1999 has found that 19 support calls for a ban. Only Michel Roux, of The Waterside Inn at Bray, Berkshire, declined to support the moratorium.

Shaun Hill, chef and proprietor of the Merchant House in Ludlow, Shropshire, and a member of Euro-Torques, a 2.500 strong group of chefs who aim to protect the flavour and quality of food, said: "It's about time the Government learnt from the mistakes of the past and stopped people mess-ing about with our food." The survey was prompted at-

ter the guide's editorial came out against gene-altered foods.

Chefs back Au pair's lawyer 'sat on evidence'

THE lawyer who led Louise Woodward's defence team has said that he may have erred in holding back evi-dence that could have implicated the older brother of Matthew Eappen in the eightmonth-old baby's death.

Harvey Silverglate, inter-viewed by the American magazine Lawyers Weekly, did not say what the evidence was, but said of Brendan Eappen, then aged 21/2: The issue of whether the older brother is well-behaved or not — that is relevant."

Miss Woodward, now studying for a law degree in London, was convicted last year of second-degree murder. The trial judge later changed the conviction to one of manslaughter and sentenced her to the 279 days she had served since her arrest.

Mr Silverglate said that the British au pair's lawyers had not raised the question of the Eappens' older child at the trail because they were confident that the jury would "stick to the science" and acquit Miss Woodward.

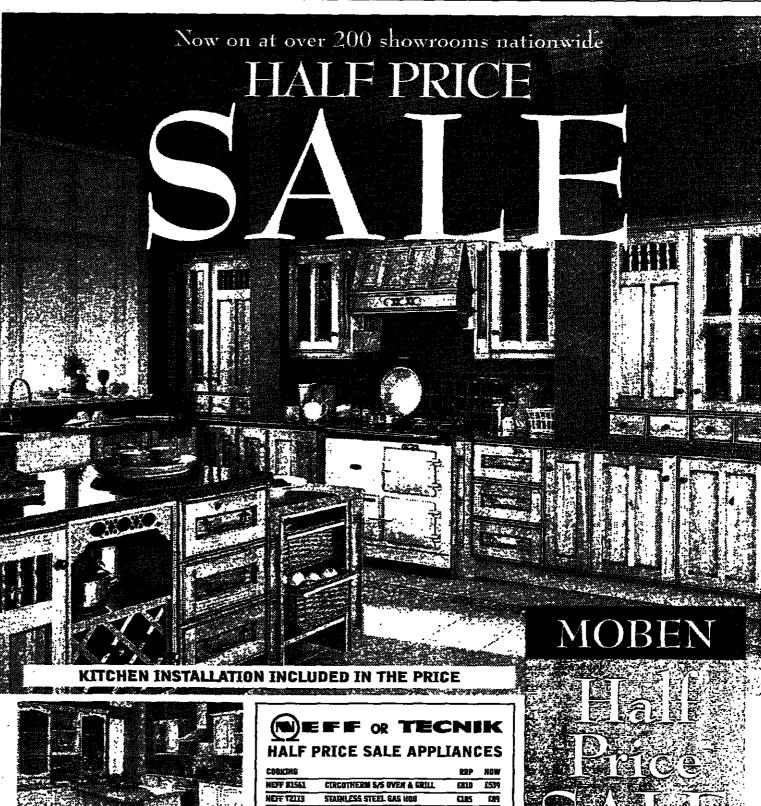
But Frederic Ellis, the Eappens' solicitor, said that Mr Silverglate's comments were "totally improper". He added: The Eappen family has suffered enough. They certainly don't need these aspersions cast on them. It is totally ridic-ulous to think Brendan repeatly shook and inflicted a violent blow to Matty. It was Lou-

ise Woodward."

The interview comes as the

Woodward camp prepares to contest a damages claim brought by Matthew Eappen's parents, Sunil and Deborah. The civil action is scheduled to be heard by a federal judge in Boston on January 4. The Woodward family and

their solicitors declined to comment on Mr Silverglate's remarks. Friends of the family, though, said that stories that Matthew Eappen may have been harmed in some way by his older brother were common in the run-up to Miss Woodward's trial.

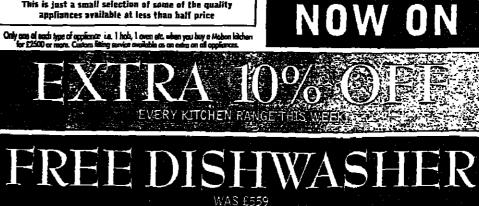




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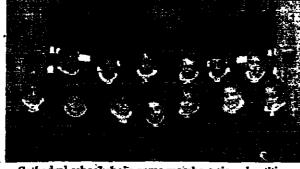
Cathedral choir discord

BY RUTH GLEDHULL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CHOIRBOYS at Bristol Cathedral have signed a petition demanding that the new organist and choirmaster treat them "with fairness and respect". The parents of one choris-

ter have complained that the organist, Mark Lee, referred to individual choristers as boy" and demanded silence when they were having their tea. Mr Lee, who joined the cathedral from Gloucester in September, was also accused of warning that "lost causes" would have to go if they failed to meet the high stand-

ards he was setting. In their petition, which was presented to the Dean, the Very Rev Robert Grimley, in



Cathedral school choir: some members signed petition

November, the choristers called on Mr Lee to thank them when they "worked hard" or sang "solos or split parts". They said Mr Lee should treat all choristers in al style."

believe it all stems from the appointment of Mark Lee carlier this year. Our son and several other boys quickly became unhappy at his dictatori-

Dean Grimley said an in-The father of one boy said: quiry had shown that Mr Lee had acted "perfectly proper-"The choir is a very unhappy place to be at the moment. I ly" in every respect.

good to be true

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Tony Blair — has he got news for us

LOSERS IN THE BATTLE INCHES

THE LEADERS

Jack Straw David Blunketi Donald Dewar Chris Smith Lord Irvine of Laine Mo Mowlam Frank Dobson George Robertson Jack Cunningham Nick Brown

Alun Michael Ann Teytor OTHER LABOUR SHADOW CABINET

Aichael Howard Francis Maude Sir George Young

OTOUS. The c the un of the r delibh Buba's securin lain Duncan Smith James Arburbino Mark Lord Kingsland

ing dominance of British politics and his personal stamp on the Government is disclosed today in a survey of politicians'

public impact.
In an indication of the Prime Minister's presidential style, Mr Blair's name appeared in 28,653 stories in national newspapers last year, more than double any other politician. Second came the Chancel-

lor, Gordon Brown, who was mentioned some 11,000 times. William Hague was referred to only 6,000 times. The Times's survey was car-

ried out by checking on computer databases of national newspapers the number of stories erring to each politician that appeared between January I and December 23 this

Reflecting the importance of the spin-doctors, Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's official spokesman, appeared in print over 2.000 times, more often than nine Cabinet ministers and all but two Tory frontbenchers.

Cherie Blair was mentioned some 900 times, usually as the Prime Minister's wife but on one in three occasions as the barrister Cherie Booth. Flion Hague, the Tory leader's wife who has faced criticism for keeping a low profile, appeared just 79 times.

Jane Ashdown, wife of the Liberal Democrat leader, made just one appearance on the guest list of a Windsor Castle banquet recorded in the Court Circular.

After Mr Blair and Mr Brown, the next most prominent ministers were Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, who all managed more than 6,000 mentions. Since Mr Mandelson's resignation last week, 384 stories including his name

James Landale, Hannah Betts

and Elizabeth Judge assess

press coverage

of ministers

profiles included Ann Taylor. the Chief Whip: Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary; and Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, who all appeared fewer than 1,000 times.

Harriet Harman managed 1,259 mentions until her dismissal as Social Security Secretary in July but since then there have been only 391 sto-ries. David Clark's low profile as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster - 320 mentions dropped to near-invisibility 149 — since his sacking in July.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Sec retary, appeared only 311 times before his resignation in October. But since the events of Clapham Common there have been 1.018 more stories. Mr Hague's media profile has been so poor over the past year that his name appeared only a few more times than Baroness Thatcher's. The Tory leader was mentioned 5,991 times, just 132 more than his long-retired predecessor.

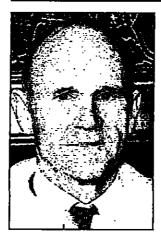
the Liberal Democrats are also struggling to find the the spotlight. Paddy Ashdown, appeared just 1,484 times.

The Shadow Cabinet rankings partly reflect the extent to vhich members have adapted to Opposition. Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, was mentioned 1,358 times. A close second is John Redwood, the media-hungry Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, who appeared 1,004

The rest of Mr Hague's frontbench team tailed off to near-invisibility, with most in the low hundreds. Liam Fox, the constitutional spokesman, anneared 237 times, but 45 stories were about his friendship with the pop singer Natalie lmbruglia. David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary.

appeared just 78 times. In the early running to become the Mayor of London, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare is gaining the most publicity. The politician and author got his name into 1.526 stories, while Ken Livingstone

TORIES' MAN IN THE SHADE



Lord Kingsland, the 56-yearold Shadow Lord Chancellor, left, appeared in print just 14 times, making him the most invisible member of the Shadow Cabinet. Most references come from voting lists. But five are for a minor brush with fame when the ex-Euro-MP — formerly Sir Christopher Prout — made a gaffe in October. In a debate on Lords reform, he appeared to suggest that the Tories might breach conventions and overturn a manifesto commitment of an incoming Government. The Tory leadership made him withdraw his remarks.



Albert and Daisy Bance meeting in Montreal for the first time since the First World War

Brother and sister get a grip on lost 80 years

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

WHEN Daisy Bance finally got her hands on the brother she had not seen for 80 years she was understandably reluctant to loosen her grip.

A crowd of cameramen at Montreal International Airport pleaded with the couple to pose for a reunion picture. But she could only bury her face in his chest and say: "I don't want to let you go." Albert Bance, 85, standing a

foot taller than his older sister, embraced her and replied: "Here I am . . I ve been waiting for you for a lifetime." The two were separated as

children in Surrey after their parents died during the First World War, their father on the battlefield. They were sent to different orphanages and, in 1929, the young Albert, then 14, was shipped to Canada.

He was one of about 12,000 "home" children sent to Commonwealth countries, supposedly for a better life. Many were orphans; others were from broken homes.

After Albert arrived in Canada he went to work on a farm near South Stukely in the Eastern Townships, south of Montreal. He was an industrious boy and eventually became police chief and fire chief of nearby Waterloo, Quebec. He married, had five children and enjoyed a prosperous life. He has been a widower for three years and has 12 grandchildren, many of whom came to the airport to see the reunion

with his sister. It was one of the grandchil-dren, Todd Goyette, whose re-search on the Internet and

through birth records in England, brought his great aunt to Canada. Mr Goyette and his wife. Deanna, sent letters to years ago in search of anyone with the surname Bance. They were directed to Surrey, the

last known whereabouts of Mr Bance's sister, and found 23 people with that name including two Daisys. One of these, now living in Southampton, turned out to be the right one.

Mr Bance said that he had tried several times to locate his sister, but his efforts had always been rebuffed by the British Government, which until recently did not encourage former "home" children who wanted to trace their roots in

Miss Bance, who is also 85. never married and spent her working life in domestic service. The flight to Montreal. which she made with a friend, was her first trip in an aircraft. She had no trouble recognis-ing her brother at the airport, apart from the crowd of reporters surrounding him, because he was wearing the tartan scarf she had knitted and sent

to him. They will spend a week to-gether in Montreal and hope to begin arrangements to spend next Christmas together

They are still looking for a younger sister, Frances, who may be still alive somewhere in Britain, although she also may have been sent to another Commonwealth country as a child.

NEWS IN BRIEF **Ex-borstal** chief to run jails

A former assistant governor of a borstal is to be the next Director-General of the Pris-

Martin Narey, 43, will take over as head of the 135 jails in England and Wales in the spring when Richard Tilt retires. Mr Narey joined the Prison Service in 1982 as an assistant governor at Deerbolt borstal in Co Durham. From 1986 to 1989 he was an assistant governor at Frankland top-security jail in Durham. Mr Narey, who is currently director of regimes for the service, conducted an inquiry Billy Wright the loyalist terrorist, in the Maze prison.

Killing charges

Thomas Park, 24, an unemployed joiner of Kensington. Liverpool, has appeared at Liverpool Magistrates' Court accused of killing Sharon Lester, 22, and her daughter, Jade, 2, whose body was dumped in a bin bag on wasteland near her home in Kensington. He was also charged with burgla ry, and remanded in custody.

Prison play

One of the men wrongly convicted of the murder of the newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater has written a play about his experiences in prison. Jimmy Robinson's drama Just Not Fair will be staged at the Birmingham Repertory Thea-tre next month. Robinson. 64. served 18 years in jail after being found guilty in 1979.

Murder charges

A 28-year-old woman ap-peared in court charged with mardering two of her children. Julie Ferris is accused of killing eight-month-old Bran-don in May this year and Hayley, also eight months, in 1993. Ferris, of Aston, was refused bail by magistrates in Bir-mingham and will return to

Baby's life saved

diagnosed meningitis after a rash on the toddler's arm failed possible relatives in England to go away when she pressed and arrived on a visit two an empty glass against it. Doctors at Southampton General Hospital, where Sadie Belbin is recovering, said that the actions of Pam Belbin, 41, had probably saved the child.

Parking death

Lillian Salmon, 82, died from head injuries received when her sister's husband reversed out of a parking space at Rick-mansworth Aquadrome, Hertfordshire. Police said it was not clear if she was struck by the car or fell into its path. Mrs Salmon, of Ruislip, West London, had been spending Christmas with the couple.

Luggage track

British Airways is to put com-puter chips into baggage la-bels to try to reduce the number of suitcases that go missing in transit. The sys-tem, which will use pinheadsized transmitters linked to a central computer, will be tested for two months on baggage to Heathrow from Manchester and Munich.

Rowing museum

The storylines and text for exhibitions at the River and Rowing Museum, Henley (article Museum, Henley (article Museum) ticle. November 4) are the work of the curators, Jane Bowen, Simon Chambers, Emily Leach and Christopher Dodd.

Ministers clash over badger cull decision

CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO Whitehall departments are heading for a clash over the fate of Britain's badgers. In August the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and

Food decided to go ahead with a random cull of the animals to assess their role in spreading tuberculosis among cattle. But Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, is determined to stop it, arguing that

they should be protected.
Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, announced plans to kill 12,000 badgers over five years while Mr Meacher, who had opposed the scheme, was on holiday in August. The move was in response to a scientific report which, though inconclusive about the role of badgers in spreading TB in cat-



Meacher: opposes cull

Under the £6 million scheme, which started last month and is to cover about 30 areas in Britain, three different experiments are being carried out at cach site.

The only trial to have gone ahead so far is in Cornwall and Devon. In the first experiment, badgers are colled at Putford, where a cattle herd

ond, they are culled in Hartland, where there is no intection; and in the third, in Bude. none are killed. The badgers are lured into a cage by a poisoned bait, and their bodies collected and examined. Mr Meacher wants the cull put on hold pending a scientif-

ic review of its impact on the badgers. The all-party Select Committee on Agriculture is to hold its own inquiry into the trial's design and likely effectiveness next month. it is still unclear whether badgers originate TB or contract it from cattle. Mr Meach

er argues that it is difficult to defend killing badgers where there is no evidence of disease. About 400 farms in England and Wales are under in strictions due to TB outbreaks in carrie Farmers blame the badger population, which has

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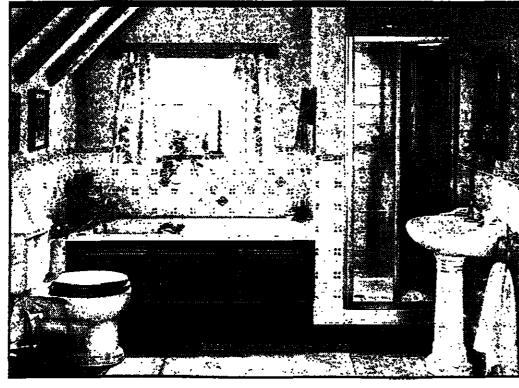
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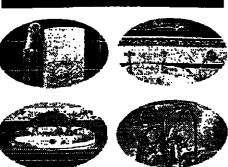
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 1998

Yemen: a land tormented by tribal strife

Michael Binyon describes a nation blessed by a rugged beauty but threatened by a savage tradition

YEMEN, a legendary land of spices, narcotics and tribal feuds, has changed little in a thousand years. It is still dominated by Islamic custom, trib-al warfare, poverty and its rug-Fighting and kidnapping

Killing day

"ere" i began

and siller

are customs that go back centu-ries. But the civil war of 1994, the growth of Islamic fundamentalism and the development of an oil industry have led to an explosive political mix that now threatens not only the growing tourist indus-try but the stability of one of the oldest countries in the Middie East. The botched attempt to

storm the kidnappers' base follows a recent decision by a frustrated Government in Sanaa to get tough with tribes-men who have increasingly mocked its authority by seiz-ing more than 100 foreigners The Government recently

in the past six years. announced the introduction of the death penalty for kidnapping - a threat that carries little weight in a country with an estimated 50 million Kalashnikov guns in circulation. But its decision to send in security forces to free the hostages has been dictated as much by political feuding as by the need to confront the tribesmen de-



Queen of Sheba: part of Yemen's rich folklore

ments to improve schools, roads and infrastructure. Yemen, historically known as "Arabia Felix", is the legendary home of the Queen of Sheba and was an important transit point on the spice route to the East. But with 16 million people - a dense population growing at 3.7 per cent - it is one of the poorest countries in the region, with an average income of only about £165 a year and an unemployment rate of 35 per cent. Oil development is still small, hampered by the attacks on pipelines by disgrun-iled tribesmen. On Saturday they blew up the main export pipeline, which carries about 150,000 barrels a day. It was

by the Turks until 1918 and the south - known as Aden - by the British until 1967. Since the bloody British withdrawal, the country has been plagued by revolutions and civil wars. The feudal north fought a me-dieval civil war in the 1960s. with republican rebels back by Egyptians sent in by Nasser and those loyal to the deposed imam backed by the Saudis. After the British withdrawal. an unstable Marxist state was set up in what became the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south, and there were frequent border clashes,

assassinations and riots. North and South Yemen agreed to a merger in 1990, but the armed forces did not integrate. Growing tensions and complaints in Aden that the city was starved of investment and that southerners were being kept out of power in Sanaa culminated in the declaration of a separate southern state in 1994 by Vice-President Ali Salem al-Baidh. A two-month civil war culminated in a crushing defeat for the south and the flight into exile of all the rebei leaders,

Since then the Yemeni Government has struggled to reimpose its authority. A million Yemenis were summarily ex-pelled from Saudi Arabia after



Yemen voiced support for Saddam Hussein in 1990, and their presence as well as the sudden end to remittances threw the economy into disarray. Border clashes with the Saudis also broke out over territory that has been disputed

for the past 60 years. The 1994 war left lasting wounds and resentment against Sanaa among southern tribesmen around Aden and in the neighbouring Abyan province. The Government faced a growing challenge from Islamic militants. Sanaa tried to re-establish its power in the south by setting up Islamic Jihad, a shadowy movement suspected of assassinating remaining separatists. It also sent in security forces to shell the strongholds of tribesmen holding foreigners, usually those from the West

their release. Last August a three-day

meeting of 1,500 Yemeni tribal leaders in Sanaa promised an end to kidnapping and vio-lence. But with loyalties changing swiftly in the rugged countryside, the Islamists who seized the Britons appear now to be in league with tribesmen

to put pressure on Sanaa for in confronting the Government and trying to force the release of a militant who was captured when security forces overran a military training camp in Abyan.

The present Government came to power after elections generally considered fair, and has tried to mend relations with the West. But Yemeni society is still violent, governed by old notions of honour. All men carry curved daggers in their belts, which are freely used to settle blood feuds. Most chew gat, a mild narcotic plant inducing feverish activity followed by long periods of

The medieval architecture of Sanaa, a well preserved city

lethargy.

700 years old and a world heritage site, coupled with spec-tacular scenery has brought a growing number of tourists who now earn Yemen more than £60 million a year. But this is likely to decline sharply after the spate of kidnappings and yesterday's killings.

Leading article, page 17

New interest rates for Halifax customers.

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Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax 30th December 1998

Bloody end surprises envoy

VICTOR HENDERSON, the British Ambassador to Yemen, initially played down the danger to the hostages' lives, telling radio and television interviewers yesterday morning that he was confident they would be safe (Michael Binyon writes). He told the BBC Radio 4's Today programme that the chance of being kidnapped in Yemen was no different from that of being raugged in London. By the afternoon four Britons were dead.

Mr Henderson an Arabic speaker who

kidnapping incidents involving Britons. Sanaa in 1995. "Geing on previous form, they are treated well," he told Sky News.

His early confidence followed talks with Yemen's Minister of the Interior. which said that the Government knew where the hostages were and had reports that they were safe. The Foreign Office, which also had talks with Hussein al-Amri, Yemen's Ambassador to Britain, was

and Helsinki, has had to deal with two eign Office and the Embassy in Sanaa were taken aback by the bloody end to including a BBC crew, since he arrived in the issue. Urgent questions were being Sanaa in 1995. "Going on previous form, asked last night why the Sanaa Government decided to storm the kidnappers' hideout. It had earlier assured Germany that it would not use force to free four Ger-

mans kidnapped earlier this month.

British amborities may not have been told that this time the kidnappers were politically motivated and were a greater threat than the tribesmen who normally

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World is a far more disastrous place to be

Nick Nuttall on an insurance industry audit of global strife

LARGE-SCALE natural disasters are three times as common as they were in the 1960s, experts said yesterday as they declared 1998 the most calami-

tous on record. Damage from catastrophic storms and floods is also costing many billions of pounds more, according to Munich Re, one of the biggest re-insur-ance companies, which has been monitoring natural disasters for a quarter of a century.

A spokesman for the compa-ny, which advises the rest of the insurance industry, said yestenday: "Comparing the fig-ures for the 1960s and the last ten years, we have established that the number of great natural catastrophes was three times larger. The cost to the world's economies, after adjust-ing for inflation, is nine times higher and for the insurance in-

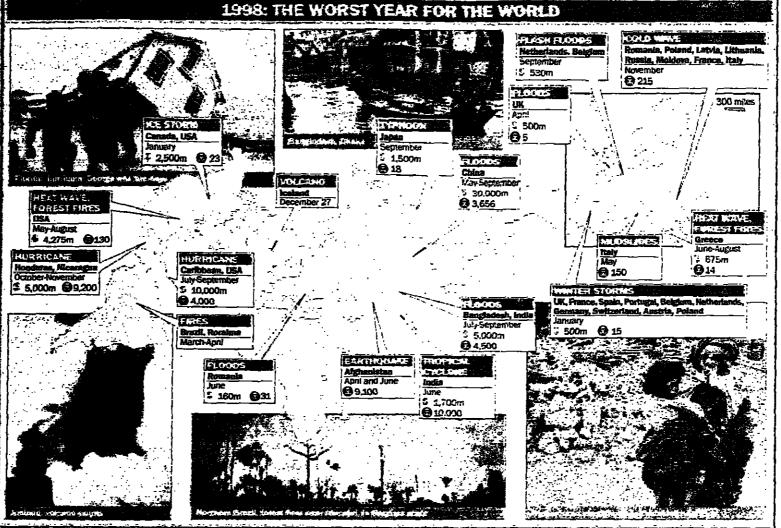
dustry three times as much." Some experts claim that the rising rate of natural catastrophes is making more parts of the globe uninsurable, especially in low-lying areas in the Pac-

ifc. Asia and the Caribbean. Figures for this year, released yesterday, show that more than 700 so called "large-loss events", which killed an estimated 50,000 people, struck across the globe.

The most frequent natural catastrophes in 1998 were windstorms, of which there were 240 significant ones, and floods, of which there were 170. They accounted for 85 per cent of the economic losses. In 1995, the previous most calamitous year, there were 100 fewer "large-loss events". Last year there were 538.

The most recent natural disaster was caused by Hurri-cane Mitch, which hit Central America and especially Honduras and Nicaragua killing an estimated 9,200 people and costing \$5 billion (£3.1 billion) in uninsured and \$150 million

(£94 million) in insured losses. Europe was also plagued with costly natural disasters. the blamed being put on higher than average winter temper-atures triggering extreme



weather. The biggest uninsured losses in Europe in 1998 are believed to have been caused by the heatwaves and forest fires that hit Greece between June and August. These are estimated to have cost the

country \$675 million. The biggest insured losses, costed at \$530 million, were in the The Netherlands and Belgium in September. Second, at \$500 million, was the damage caused by the storms that swept Europe in January.

That loss was equalled by the floods in Britain in April which cost \$500 million, triggering insurance claims of \$250 million.

The big rise in natural disasters this year is being blamed on rising global temperatures aggravating changes to La Niña, a climatic cycle in the Pacific that follows El Niño and spawns heavy rains in Asia. Dr Gerhard Berz, the head of the geoscience research centre at Munich Re, said that economic loss and human misery large catastrophe losses. would rise further if global warming continued in line

with scientists' forecasts. Dr Berz, whose company has been montioring the level and cost of natural disasters since the late 1960s, said: "A

climate change will almost invariably bring us increasingly extreme natural events and

The progress achieved at the fourth dimate summit in Buneos Aires at the beginning of November is not enough to halt global warming and stabilise the world's climate in the long term."If the 1995 earth-

cost \$100 billion, is removed from the statistics, then 1998 also becomes the most expensive year on record for all

kinds of natural disasters. Most of this year's storms and floods hit poor, uninsured parts of the globe, so the loss to the insurance industry is force cast to be less, at about \$15 billion. But that figure is up from \$4.5 billion in 1997 and contin-

Night in the open for dog's best friend

By GILLIAN HARRIS SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A HILLWALKER had to spend the night outdoors in sub-zero temperatures when his tired dog put him in dan-ger of falling down a mouniainside.

Nick Tranmer, 34, used an ice pick to dig a snow hole for himself and his Border collie near the summit of Ben Oss in Stirling when it became apparent that the dog could not keep its footing. Mr Tramner feared that Benji, who was on a lead, would pull him over the mountainside if it slipped

in the dark As he settled down for an uncomfortable night on the 1,020ft mountain with Benji huddled inside his jacket. Mr Tramner was unaware that his wife had reported him missing when he failed to re-

turn home in Edinburgh. His disappearance caused a search by mountain rescue teams and an RAF helicopter that was not called off until Mr Tranmer, an outdoor pur-suits instructor, strolled into the village of Tyndrum at the mountain foot yesterday.

He said later: "We were coming back down when we had some difficulties. Benji was unable to get back down because the hill was so icy. I reckoned if the dog slipped it would take me with it.

"I suppose the moral of the story is that you should not take your dog with you when you are going up a hill."

More storms blowing in for the New Year

By JOANNA BALE, GILLIAN HARRIS AND AUDREY MAGEE

THE north and west of Britain face a wet and windy start to the new year as thousands of people struggle to repair damage wrought by Christ-mas gales. Many homes in Scotland and Ireland were without electricity for a third day yesterday as the Met Office warmed of more storms.

*Another weather system is brewing up to the west, bring-ing more wind and a band of rain crossing Ireland during Thursday into western England and west Wales," a spokesman said. "Hogmanay is likely to be wet and windy, especially in the northwest which will see winds of up to 50mph. We are not expecting anything like the Christmas gales, although there could be more damage.

The electricity company Scottish Power came under atBOYFRIEND KILLED

Machael Joyce, the Irish international showjump in Alled when a tree fell on his car in a storm on Bosing Day, was driving his guilriend. Samantha Smith, in a materiall at Communia. Co Galway, when he intended to pro-pose offis Smith 20, who was unbert said it

ers who have been without electricity since the Christmas storms cut power lines.

As South Lanarkshire Counci) teams toured some of the worst affected villages offering hot meals and shelter in community halls, Jimmy Hood, the MP for Clydesdale, called on the company's managers to resign or be sacked.

"No amount of weasel words from ScottishPower bosses can excuse their complete and absolute incompetence," he

A ScottishPower spokes man said: The vast majority of homes affected were reconnected very soon afterwards. There are still problems aftect-ing rural communities and we are doing our utmost to address them." In areas without electricity. ScottishPower has provided generators for retirement homes, farms, hotels and kidney dialysis machines.

in Ireland, gale force winds and heavy rain yesterday hampered attempts to restore pow er. About 15,000 houses in the Irish Republic and 3,000 homes in Northern Ireland were still without electricity. The Association of British

Insurers has estimated that £10 million will be paid out for Christmas storm damage.

Forecast, page 20

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Chain of fire will circle the country

By Dominic Kennedy

THE biggest network of beacons since the reign of Elizabeth I will be lit throughout the United Kingdom to start the millennium celebrations. National Lottery money will

be used to help to create 2,500 beacons. They will include lofty braziers displaying coats of arms, beacons on top of church towers and huge bon-fires. Communities will be encouraged to hold parties around their village or town beacons, rather than flocking

to cities for showpiece events. The £100 million Millennium Festival's First Weekend celebrations, announced today, aim to revive community spirit by getting Britons out of their homes to join mass open-

Churches will be restored to the heart of community life. At midnight, 400 churches will switch on new floodlights and 100 will ring new bells paid for by the Millennium Commission. The rest will be encouraged to light beacons.

Many of the 21 cities that are receiving lottery grants for the First Weekend celebrations will turn the spotlight on to the great rivers on which they were founded. On the Mersey. a River of Light event will fea-ture floodlit buildings on both banks, linking Liverpool and

Birkenhead. London will use its bridges for theatrical performances on the theme of the Thames as a "river of time" flowing towards the Millennium Dome in Greenwich.

Salford Quays, near Manchester, will be the setting for fire, light and laser displays. street entertainers and funfairs along a corridor of "millennium waterfronts" leading to Trafford Wharf. In Newcastle upon Tyne,

1.000 schoolchildren will stage a lantern procession on the river. Inverness has arranged for massed pipe bands to play for traditional dancers and street

actors on the Ness.
University sculling championships will be conducted on the River Lagan in Belfast on New Year's Day. In Londonderry, the River Foyle will feature a fire and laser show using bridges and giant moving set-pieces.

Other city celebrations will include music in Birmingham. Bristol and Leeds; a Manchester multicultural parade; sci-ence and youth domes in Norwich; open-air songs of praise in Nottingham: a satellite link between Plymouth and New Plymouth. New Zealand; an Afro-Caribbean carnival in Sheffield; and an Edinburgh Hogmanay party for 180,000.



Museums plan an apocalyptic celebration

MUSEUMS and art galleries will offer a sobering antidote to the triumphalism of the Millennium Dome in 2000 with sombre exhibitions exploring themes of death, destruction and decadence.

While Dome visitors clamber inside a human body, play "surfball" and watch extravagant floor shows, the British Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the National Gallery plan to mark the millennium in more contemplative fashion.

The British Museum will stage The Apocalypse and the Shape of Things to Come, an examination of apocalyptic and demonic art that looks at the history of images of the Book of Revelation. Illuminated manuscripts, books, prints and drawings from the 11th century to the Second World War will be used to trace the development of the ideas of devil and apocalypse.

A museum spokesman said that the end of the millennium was an appropriate moment to evaluate the legacy of the

Book of Revelation, "one of the most vivid and controversial writings" in the Christian canon "Its description of an apocalypse that was both destructive and redemptive provided a rich vein of imagery that remains a force in contemporary culture," he said.

Examples will range from Albrecht Dürer woodcuts to William Blake illustrations, satire by James Gillray and the Rudolph Valentino film The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. There will also be a section on the fascination that the concept of the apoca-lypse has had for humanity during the 20th century, with the threats of Nazism and nuclear war examined.

It will draw on the museum's own prints and drawings, as well as others borrowed from overseas. In September, the museum will celebrate the opening of its new Great Court, built with a E30 million grant from the Milennium Commission.

The British Museum's show will link well with an exhibition at the National Gailery based around Botticelli's The Mystic Nativity, which was painted in 1500 and filled with apocalyptic symbolism. The exhibition will explain how the Florentine artist used the painting to contemplate the half-milthe world, as well as investigating his background, development and influences.

At the Victoria & Albert, a centenary show featuring its most famous works will run from October 1999 to January 2000, followed by a celebration of Art Nouveau at the end of the last century. The exhibition will explore the prevalent themes of the period, including degeneracy, progress, nature, eroticism, mysticism and

consumerism The National Portait Gallery takes a different tack, exhibiting portraits of 100 great

20th-century figures
Patrick Tobin, Headmaster
of Stewart's Melville College and chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, said that the museums' offerings would be of far more value to young people than the "bread and circuses" on offer in the Dome. "This is far more the kind of thing we are looking for," he said.

These shows are likely to engender some caution and humility as well as excitement, a sense that previous generations have been here and that there might be ways today's youth can do better."

The Tate Gallery is not organising a dedicated 2000 show. Its new gallery of modern art at Bankside is due to

Party bonanza for those who pour the drinks

By MARK HENDERSON

ing to pay more than handsomely those staff prepared to skip the millennium celebrations and work on New Year's

Eve 1999. Bar and catering workers who give up their own parties to work are in for a lucrative night, with some likely to earn more than £1,000 for a single. shift waiting on tables or serving behind a bar.

Party-givers, hotels and restaurants are so concerned about staff shortages scupper-ing their chances of cashing in on what they believe will be Britain's biggest night of celebration that they are already offering wages up to six times the norm. Further hikes are possible if there is a lack of volunteers as 2000 approaches.

Reflex Entertainment, which is hosting a ball for 8,000 people at Bath Rugby Union-Club, said it had budgeted wages at four to five times normal rates and expected to pay some staff as much as £1,000. Mark Johnson, the organiser, said that was already the going rate: "We have budgeted for it and sorted it out early. It is better to pay high rates and get the staff than be short."

The party, held in a vast tent, will cost £220 for a normal ticket or £280 for a VIP place offering access to a mezzanine lounge, unlimited champagne and exotic food. Another major paying par-ty, held by Millennium Ven-ues at Highelere Castle in

Berkshire, is also expecting to pay high wages for the evening Richard McCartney, the event organiser, said he had contracted out food and



in demand: waiters may earn £1,000 on the night

drink to Searcy's, the Prince of Wales's approved caterer, but that the 1,000 staff serving 850 guests would cost "at least five or six times the normal

The event, which will also. run for eight other nights around the millennium, offers to those who have bought the £1.350 tickets a chauffeur-driven Rolls-Royce or stretch limousine from a local hotel and back again at the end, with a champagne banquet, entertainment, fireworks and satellite links to other parties around the world.

The GMB union said it had already heard of security staff being offered five times their normal wage to work the night at the London Arena in Docklands, and that it would not advise its members to agree to work for less than quadruple or triple time and a

Many big-name London res-taurants, such as The Ivy and Le Caprice, have announced they will not be opening on New Year's Eve to allow staff a night off to celebrate.

Doctors press for higher overtime

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

A CAMPAIGN to win higher on the committee, gave warnovertime pay for junior doctors who have to work on Millennium New Year's Eve will be launched today.

Many of the 35,000 juniors have been told that they will have their leave cancelled that night, yet they will receive less than £4 an hour, less than half their regular rate. The British Medical Associa-

tion's junior doctors commitiee has voted unanimously to start negotiations for "appro-priate rates of pay and time off

ing that next year's celebrations would inevitably mean a heavier workload than ever at a time when there is a real possibility of equipment failing because of the millennium bug. Fiona Kew, deputy chairwoman of the committee, said

the out-of-hours pay was dis-graceful. "We should be ask-ing for premium rates on this night," she said. Andrew Hobart, the commit-

tee chairman, will be working this year and next as a regisin liest for those working over trar in casualty. "I the millennium period. Steve pressing our views of Hagioff, a public health doctor... ernment," he said. trar in casualty. "We will be pressing our views on the Gov-



THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 1998

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Right plays race card in euro battle

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

PROPERTY developers are at work throughout the Brandenburg lake district grafting new housing estates on to rundown villages, slapping up hy-permarkets, creating a dozen satellite townships in a web around the once and future German capital of Berlin.
The political effects of this

building boom are well known. Construction companies can only meet their tight deadlines if they run roundthe-clock shifts. German workers are too expensive, so the environs of Berlin are being pieced together by cheap Ukrainians, Poles, the English and the Irish.

The local youth, with official unemployment rates of 20 or more per cent - and real rates at 30 per cent — are turning on the foreigners. Black Englishmen in particular have been beaten up, even crippled by these resentful thugs. Vietnamese, shrewd traders who are making fortunes selling cheap cigarettes, have been set on fire. This is no longer the region celebrated by the novelist. Theodor Fontane, or Johann Sebastian Bach: today the Brandenburg concertos resonate to dark chords.

All this anger, bottled in over the winter like a potent home brew, is likely to explode next year. The critical questions are whether and when the anger will be directed at the euro, whether the far right parties will be able to mop up the discontent in the East and channel it, in time perhaps for June's European elections.

against the new currency.
The National Party of Germany (NPD), the Republicans and the German People's Union — which whipped up more

Saxony Anhalt last autumn after a mere three-week campaign - are positioning themselves for a euro protest. For the past year their demonstrators have brandished "Save the Mark" placards along with a more obvious "Foreign criminals go home".

Partly this is tactical: it is more respectable in German political culture to be patriotically in favour of the mark than to be openly racist. Partly it reflects a genuine division within German society. Popular approval for the euro is creeping up — it has just edged over 50 per cent - but in the East nobody is budging. Over half of East Germans are firmly against the euro, only a third are in favour.

The mark was a symbol of unity. It was a promise from the West that it would share its prosperity with the East. The decision to adopt the euro is regarded as Western Diktat. Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann, of the Allensbach opinion survey institute, gives a clue as to how disenchantment with the West has taken root.

Her latest poll, conducted last September, asks Germans: "Do you believe that

the East?" Only 32 per cent of East Germans held this opin-ion and 47 per cent firmly disa-

Fastern Germans are probably right to be wary of the euro. The new common currency will expose the inefficiency of rustbelt industries. Naturally old communist plants have been closed down or remodelled and modernised — but shipyards and heavy industry can still barely survive without heavy subsidies from Bonn and Brussels.

It is reasonable to assume that the first, or at least the major, victim of European Monetary Union will be Germany. saddled with its high labour and welfare costs. East Germans know exactly what is coming: foreign direct investment has been leap-frogging over eastern Germany into western Poland, which is grow-

ing visibly richer by the day. Here, then, is the witches' brew. There will be a tension between a Germany perceived by its neighours as being rich and obliged in a full monetary union to make transfer payments to the impoverished south — and yet perceiving itself as a land of spreading pov-

ground for the fishermen of the Far Right, comparable to recruiting atmosphere of the 1930s. And so, at precisely the moment when Europe is supposed to be integrating more closely, the divisions between East and West will become more apparent.

Even the proponents of the euro see it as a modernising device - look how it helped to keep budgets under control and accept that monetary union could become a scapegoat. Necessary reforms of Germany's labour costs will be blamed squarely on EMU in-



Illuminated balloons representing currencies of the countries joining the euro from Friday in the Parisian financial district yesterday

German Government.

The German resistance to the euro is not of course confined to the East. Nor is it the exclusive catchment area of the Far Right. Pensioners remain nervous - though notably less so since the accession of a Social Democratic Government - and so do small businesses. It is precisely the small and medium-sized company, making up the so-called Mittelstand, which is supposed to generate jobs, specially in the

The trend of big business in euroland is already clear: towards mega mergers that end up with job cuts. Yet small business in the East was led to believe that the euro would be new Government preaches a soft euro, the European Central Bank a hard one: the confusion is destroying the trust of the entrepreneurs who, as a result, are having reservations about hiring more workers. The political articulation of

also against the euro and it is remarkable in the East how many far right voters have moved for tactical reasons towards supporting the ex-com-

• Patriotically, it is more respectable to back the mark than to be racist³

euro discontent is a complex calculation. Germany's far right parties failed to get into parliament in the general election in September, and their present unity over the euro is a brittle one. But the opposition

trend in the euro heartland: voters switching party allegiances, from one extreme to another, on the basis of a burning single issue, whether it be the euro or immigration. Manfred Brunner, Germa-

cultures. The question is: how does one oppose the euro without appearing to be a fascist sympathiser? Burkhard Schröder, a sharp

aigner — he challenged the

Maastricht Treaty in the

courts — has just resigned from the leadership of his par-

ty, the Alliance of Free Citi-

zens, because it has been mak-

ing common cause with the

Far Right as part of an anti-eu-

who sympathise with the Left choose to keep quiet about it As German conservatives seek to position themselves and sharpen their opposition to an over-regulated European and claim to be right-wing." The new currency, billed as Union, they run this risk: that a job creator, may well in the they will be trotting some way short term be a job killer. If other factors come in to play behind the pacesetting of the a Kosovo crisis, say, propelneo-Nazis. That risk is evident ling hundreds of thousands of in many continental European refugees omó German borders - then the admixture of il-

sees how the categories of political protest are blurring in the

East. "Quite simply, the East

is different. Here it is fashiona-

ble to be on the Right. In the

schools that I visit in the East,

who claim to be National Soc-

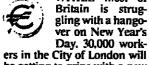
ialist because it is cool. Kids

see boys with dreadlocks

legal immigration, high unemolovment and an uncertain currency will upset all the trany's veteran eurosceptic cam- observer of the far right scene,

City cancels new year parties

By MICHAEL HARVEY



Day, 30,000 work-ers in the City of London will be getting to grips with a new era in international finance. In offices across the capital,

foreign exchange dealers and investment bankers will be hunched over their screens overseeing the birth of the

Many employees will actually see the new year in at their computer terminals as a bank holiday. The Corporathey take part in overnight tests of the conversion systems. Nervous City institutions have been practising for months for the big day, with most companies running several dress rehearsals.

Operations centres and "war rooms" have been set up. camp beds arranged in basement "rest areas" and personnel appointed to handle all conceivable crises.

One problem will be getting into work on what is normally tion of London has arranged for the Waterloo and City underground line to open especially. It will also waive park-

ing charges. Taxi firms will have a new year bonanza with thousands travelling in by cab. many in the early hours of the morn-

Most City institutions are taking no chances with transport and have block-booked hotels near the City for their

Catering for the 30,000 emoyees is another headache for City companies and most firms will be running in-

house canteens at full stretch. The costs of the euro conversion for the City runs into hundreds of millions of pounds. The Bankers' Trust investment house alone is said to have spent £60 million gearing up. At Threadneedle Street, the Bank of England will have 300 staff working around the clock to convert its

Dawn of the new currency heralds period of uncertainty on markets



THE countries that will be adopting the euro in the first wave of Economic and Monetary Un-ion are Austria, Belgium, Fin-

land, France, Germany, Italy, the Republic of Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands. Portugal and Spain.
They will form a single cur-

rency zone, dubbed euroland, a territory of nearly 300 million people, accounting for

19.4 per cent of the world's GDP. Euroland will be the world's largest importer and exporter.

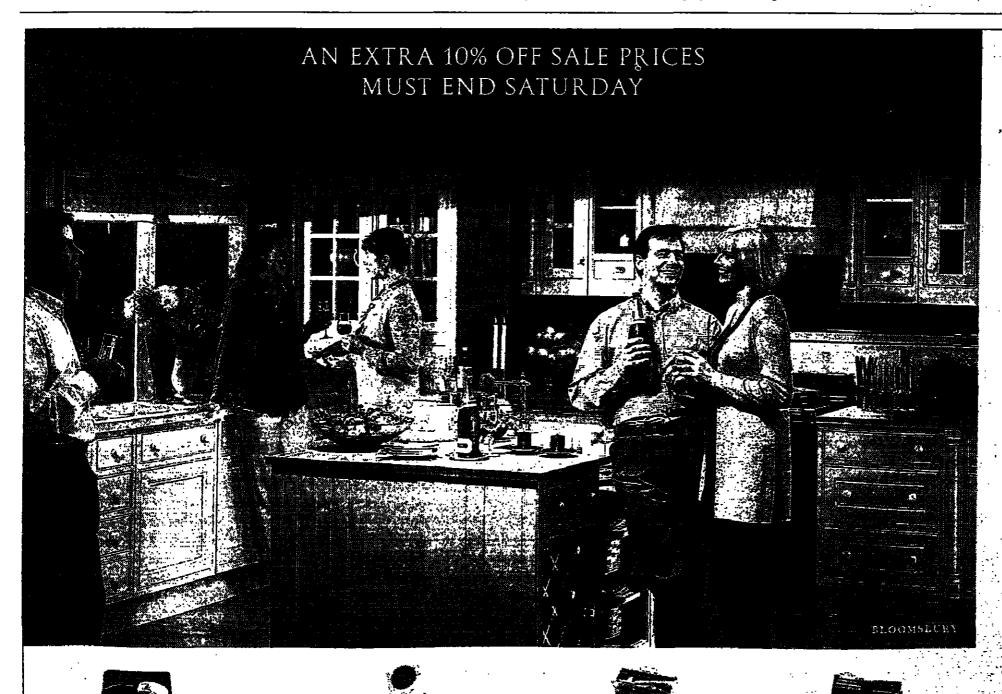
☐ Where Britain stands Britain and Denmark negotiated opt-outs, letting them decide on EMU membership. A British decision will rest on a referendum and economic

☐ How the currency works At midnight on January 1,

1999, the euro becomes a curmains outside EMU.

☐ The effect on the pound rency in its own right and will begin to be used for payments both by businesses and con-Nobody knows exactly how the pound will be affected. sumers. The exchange rate of Some believe dealers may each EMU member's currendrive down the euro by piling in to sterling or the dollar. Othcy to the euro will be permaers believe the pound may weaken while things pick up nently fixed. Euro banknotes and coins will be introduced on the Continent. The euro will end some massive currenfrom January 1, 2002. They will circulate with national currencies for up to six months. cy fluctuations in Europe. The euro is now 70p, but this could change while Britain re-

Tomorrow: the effect on prices The euro and me, page 25



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THE TIMEWEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 1998

Russia 'mislaid' bllions in crash

FM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yestery announced an investigation the Federal Security Sers into the dislars over the th weeks in August when the tion's bank-

ing system virily collapsed.

The renewenvestigations come only thrmonths after Yuri Skuratowe Prosecutor-General, accid the central bank, and Sei Dubinin, its former chairn, of misusing the \$4.8 billion3 billion) first tranche of a international Monetary Pl stabilisation

However, sof is hard to come by: sinche money was intended to er the budget deficit, whichs now reached 61.1 billion ibles for 1998, and it had noecific purpose apart from it. "Misuse" is therefore difalt to define.

Sergei Steshin, the Interior Ministeresterday told a news conferce that central bank records far back as 1992 had be investigated in funds and nover the culprits behind the gust crash.

Financialime has become increasingly widespread in Russia andore than 250,000 economic mes have been committed Russia this year, causing me than 20 billion roubles of mage, according

to Mr Stephin. Many obese offences occurred arold the time of the national cit, when the central bank is simultaneously defendings rouble by sell-ing dollaro Russian banks, and supping certain banks with liquid problems by extending role loans to them with which they in turn

fectively diapsed, they were

n markets

refusing to make payments to depositors, but the rouble was kept stable at seven roubles to the dollar while bankers closed their own accounts and shipped their money abroad, probably to Switzerland."

The rouble has since plum-meted to 20.62 to the dollar. During the collapse loans were being used, with or without the central bank's knowledge, to bail out the accounts of the directors while the savings of the average depositor were wiped out.
Western commercial banks

suffered huge losses as a result of the crash. Investors saw the value of their holdings in Russian shares and government bonds crumble as the crisis brought the Government to the edge of default.

In Britain, Barclays was worst hit, making a provision of £250 million in its accounts to cover losses in Russia. Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, later left the company after disagreements over reforms designed to restore the bank's profits.

Given the influence of Russia's most wealthy and the complexity of the deals, few of which were actually illegal, it is unlikely that the whole truth will ever be known.

Meanwhile, the budget for 1999 was finally passed by the Duma on Christmas Eve after

Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, threatened to resign. The budget has failed to impress the IMF, which continues to withold a much needed injection of cash.

Munich: Mikhail Gor-bachey, the former Soviet President, said he lost his savings, about £48,000, in the Russian "It was and alous," said a crash. "All my money is gone."

Moscow sed Western econo. he told Bunte magazine. (AP)

mist. "Alf the banks had ef-

Debt default, page 21 | young people from the streets. by the municipal authorities.



David Niven, with Cantinflas, in Michael Todd's 1956 film of Around the World in Eighty Days, quaff champagne chilled with a scoop of snow from the Alps

Jules Verne heir scoffs at Branson 'whim'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE

THE around-the-world balloon attempts by Richard Branson have been dismissed as so much hot air by the great-grandson of Jules Verne, the 19th-century au-thor of Around the World in Eighty Days, who described the effort as nothing more than "a millionaire's whim".

Jean-Jules Verne, 36, a onetime opera singer and entrepreneur who recently launched an edition of Verne's complete works on CD-Rom, said that his greatgrandfather, celebrated for his novels of exploration and science, would have been unimpressed at the repeated attempts by the Virgin tycoon to circumnavigate the globe by balloon.

"I'm not taken in by the ICO Global Challenger tearn." M Verne said. "What they are doing is closer to a millionaire's whim than a genuine scientific inquiry." Mr Branson, accompanied by team-mates Steve Fossett and Per Lindstrand, aban-

doned his fourth around-the-

world bid on Christmas Day.

Jean-Jules Verne, the

author's great-grandson

splashdown in the Pacific 8.200 miles after take-off. M Verne described his ancestor, who wrote Cing Semaines en Ballon (Five Weeks in a Balloon) in 1863, a de-cade before Around the World in Eighty Days was published, as a writer with an insatiable curiosity ... interested in the future as a humanist and visionary". He added: "If he was living at the end of this century, he would be much more enthusi-astic about a possible voyage to Mars than by a competition reserved for people who can afford to indulge in this

promoter of the works of Jules Verne in France, and spent some £500,000 of his own money to transfer the traordinaires on to CD-Rom. While criticising Mr Bran-

son's efforts, M Verne has made no secret of his backing for the rival Swiss balloonist. Bertrand Piccard, and the British pilot, Anthony

Brown.

M Piccard's grandfather. Auguste Piccard, carried out and explored the ocean floor using a submersible vessel with an observation capsule

fitted underneath. M Verne told Le Figaro newspaper that the enterprise involving M Piccard, though sponsored by Breitling, was a better reflection of Verne's spirit of adventure than that undertaken by the wealthy Mr Branson. The Breitling Orbiter set a nineday record during a roundthe-world bid last February.

"For good luck, I have given Bertrand Piccard a book dedicated by Maupassant to Jules Verne which he will take with him," M Verne

Free concerts fail to curb Strasbourg riot

By Ben Macintyre

AN ATTEMPT to stop youths in Strasbourg from rioting by providing free entertainment has proved a costly failure after gangs went on the rampage in the eastern French city for the third consecutive year.

About 18 people were arrested, at least 50 cars were set ablaze, police were pelted with rocks and a petrol bomb was thrown into a nursery school during the unrest.

The violence echoed similar scenes last Christmas and new year. To try to stave off a repetition, the city funded — to the tune of £400.000 — a week of free concerts featuring hip-hop, techno and Algerian rai music as well as cultural and sporting events. Reduced fees were also arranged for Internet access to try to divert conciliatory measures taken

Violence erupted on Saturday night in one of the poorest neighbourhoods after a free concert. About 500 cars were set on fire in the city last year and more than 100 in 1996.

The concerts were popular with youths but appear to have done nothing to dampen what is becoming a tradition-al, if unwelcome, feature of the season in Strasbourg. "Clearly, some young people now see an opportunity for concerted action. This is now a conscious decision, and a whole new development." a police expert told Le Figaro.

Police believe the sudden upsurge in violence was a direct act of defiance to coincide with and undermine

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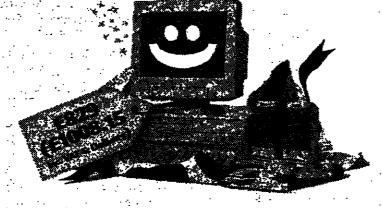
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£10.000+	4.50	4.75	3.85	. 3.85	4.65	4.65	3.95	3.95	3.16	
£5,000+	4.35	4.35	3.65	3.65	4.40	4.40	3.70	3.70	2.96	
£500+	3.60	3.60	3.35	3.35	3.60	3.60	3,35	3.35	2.68	
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\$10,000+	3.55	3.55	2.95	2,95	3,50	3.50	2.90	2.90	2.32	
£5,000÷	3.45	3.45	2.85	2.85	3.40	3.40	2.80	2.80	2.24	
·£2,500+	3.40	3.40	2.70	2.70	3.30	3.30	2.60	2.60	2.08	
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£25,000+	5.41	5.30	4.89	4.80	4.63	4.55	4.11	4.05	3.24	
£10,000+	5.04	4.95	4,52	4.45	4.37	4.30	. 3.85	3.80	3.04	
.£5,000+	4.32	4.25	3.80	3.75	4.06	4.00	3.55	3.50	2.80	
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BONUS GOLD	•							·			
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£25,000+	4.85	4.85	4,45	4.45	5,45	470	4.70	4.30	4.30	5.30	3.44
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£25,000+	4.85	4.75	4.45	4.36	-	4,70	4.60	4.30	4.22	_	3.38
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Top Khmer Rouge leaders say sorry

FROM CAROLINE GLUCK IN PHNOM PENH

SENIOR Khmer Rouge leaders have apologised, for the first time, for the suffering they caused when an estimated 1.7 million people died during the movement's reign of terror between 1975 and 1979.

Speaking at a news conference in Phnom Penh. Khieu Samphan, 67, the former nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge, and Nuon Chea. 71, the movement's chief ideologue said they regretted what had

Asked if he felt remorse for the suffering caused during the Khmer Rouge's period of power, Mr Khieu Samphan replied: "Yes, sorry, very sorry." Mr Nuon Chea, known as Brother No 2 in the movement

- led by Brother No I, Pol Pot. who died in the jungle last April — also apologised. "Naturally we are sorry; not only for the lives of the people, but also for the animals. They all died because we wanted to win-

But neither would talk

about their roles in the past - ation," Mr Khieu Samphan and brushed off suggestions that they should stand trial before an international tribunal

for crimes against humanity. "Please, let the Cambodian people and nation resolve its problems. And as I just tell you. 'Let bygones be bygones' is the best solution for our country because it is the only

said. But the man who served as the public face of the secretive guerrilla group for many years also admitted that he understood the bitterness many Cambodians still harboured. "It is normal that those who have lost their families feel remost of our compatriots understand that we have more prob-

that the Cambodian Govern-

ment had made several re-

quests to the international

community in the past 18

months for help in bringing

the Khmer Rouge leaders to trial. The US hoped that the

Chea marked the first step in

apparent surrender of

US pledges trial for genocide architects

Washington: The US Government said yesterday that it would continue to work to bring the two former Khmer Rouge leaders to justice (lan

Brodie writes). Lustice in Cambodia has long been delayed but must not now be denied," said Lee McClenny, the State Department spokesman. He noted

mirrors, leather steering wheel and gear knob.

It's a car whose looks and performance

lems to resolve at present and in the future and we have to forget the past."

Earlier, the two men met Hun Sen, the Prime Minister. at his residence outside the capital. They were warmly greeted and treated to lunch. They had travelled by helicopter along with leng Sary, the former Khmer Rouge Foreign Minister, who led the first large wave of defections from the guerrilla movement in 1996 and was granted a royal

pardon.
On Monday, Mr Hun Sen gave the clearest indication that it was unlikely that the pair would have to face trial for crimes against humanity. He said such a trial might mean a return to civil war.

However, there is a growing mood of dismay among Cambodians that the Khmer Rouge leaders are unlikely to be held accountable for their role in Cambodia's killing fields. Many accepted the Govern-ment's so-called "win-win" pol-



Khieu Samphan, left, and Nuon Chea yesterday make their first public apology for the Khmer Rouge imgs

icy which allowed former Khmer Rouge soldiers to be reintegrated into society without retribution. However, moves to allow the movement's leaders back appear to be a step too far for many. "The people

might get angry if Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea are not brought to justice," said a shopkeeper in Phnom Penh. They are demanding that the Government bring them before a

the independent Documenta-tion Centre of Cambodia. which has been collecting evidence related to the Khmer Rouge period, also dismissed

Youk Chhang, director of buried. The Calodian peo ple cannot acc that," he said. "The defect of Khieu Samphan and bon Chea gives more streh to leng Sary. It provides real threat

Rivals ready to challenge Netanyahi

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

isters signalled yesterday that they might desert Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, as a parliamentary committee set May 17 for the

country's next elections. The date is potent with symbolism, marking the day that the Likud party first came to power in 1977 under Menachem Begin, ending 29 years of backbencher, yestery began

Labour rule. But Mr Netanyahu's hold, helped him to gain over in over Likud appeared under 1996. While not knot for any threat after Ariel Sharon, the: deep religious beliefhe visit Foreign Minister, made a ed the Western Wall the Old quick turnabout, announcing that he would consider contest-

ing the post of Prime Minister. Only 24 hours before, Mr Sharon, considered a key ally of Mr Netanyahu, had said that he did not want the job. and said his party leader was the best candidate. Mr Sharon later told an Israeli television programme that he would stand if conditions changed.

To add to Mr Netanyahu's woes, Yitzhak Mordechai the Defence Minister who tops the polls as Israel's most popular minister - criticised the Prime Minister's handling of peace negotiations with the Palestinians. He also indicated he was weighing up whether to leave Likud "For today, I am a Likud man. If I reach a different conclusion. I'll let the public know."

Mr Mordechai blamed Mr Netanyahu for suspending the Wye River peace deal and said both sides should maintain

Political analysts have speculated that Mr Mordechai could join Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, a former army chief-of-staff, who is preparing to enter the fray at the head of a new centrist party. Mr Mor-dechai added to speculation when he said he had sent a bouquet to Mr Lipkin-Shahak on his announcement last week that he was retiring from the army for a political career.

The Defence Minister also displayed his disillusionment with Mr Netanyahu when he said that he welcomed challenges by Dan Meridor, the former Finance Minister, and Benny Begin, the son of Menachem, who have both left Likud to form parties. Mr

TWO top Israeli Cabinet min-isters signalled yesterday that also include Day Levy, a former Foreign Mster and one-time coalitios partner, who yesterday him that he

might co-operate h Ehud Barak, the oppositi Labour Party leader. The Prime Minist also being challenged fd Likud's leadership by Uzi Indau, a wooing observant vs. who City of Jerusalem, t holiest

site in Judaism The poll date - w have been set as triy as March - has been ticised by Palestinian leads who say the peace proces hould not be a hostage of Isrli politics. Some Israeli lears, including President Vzman, are also concerned, sing the country cannot affd six months' political But the Knesset is ex confirm the date on Inday.



Golan asets were csted

Jerusalem: A foier Israeli Finance Minist yesterday confirmed a secreompensation plan was the evacuation Dewish settiers from the Can Heights if the territory re returned to Syria (Ross inn writes). Some work walone to evaluate the worth the assets on the Golan lights," said Abraham Shot. Binyamin Netanyahu, therime Minis ter, has vowed ver to hand back the Gold which was seized during 1967 war.

Yacht survivor lows not to enter again

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYLEY

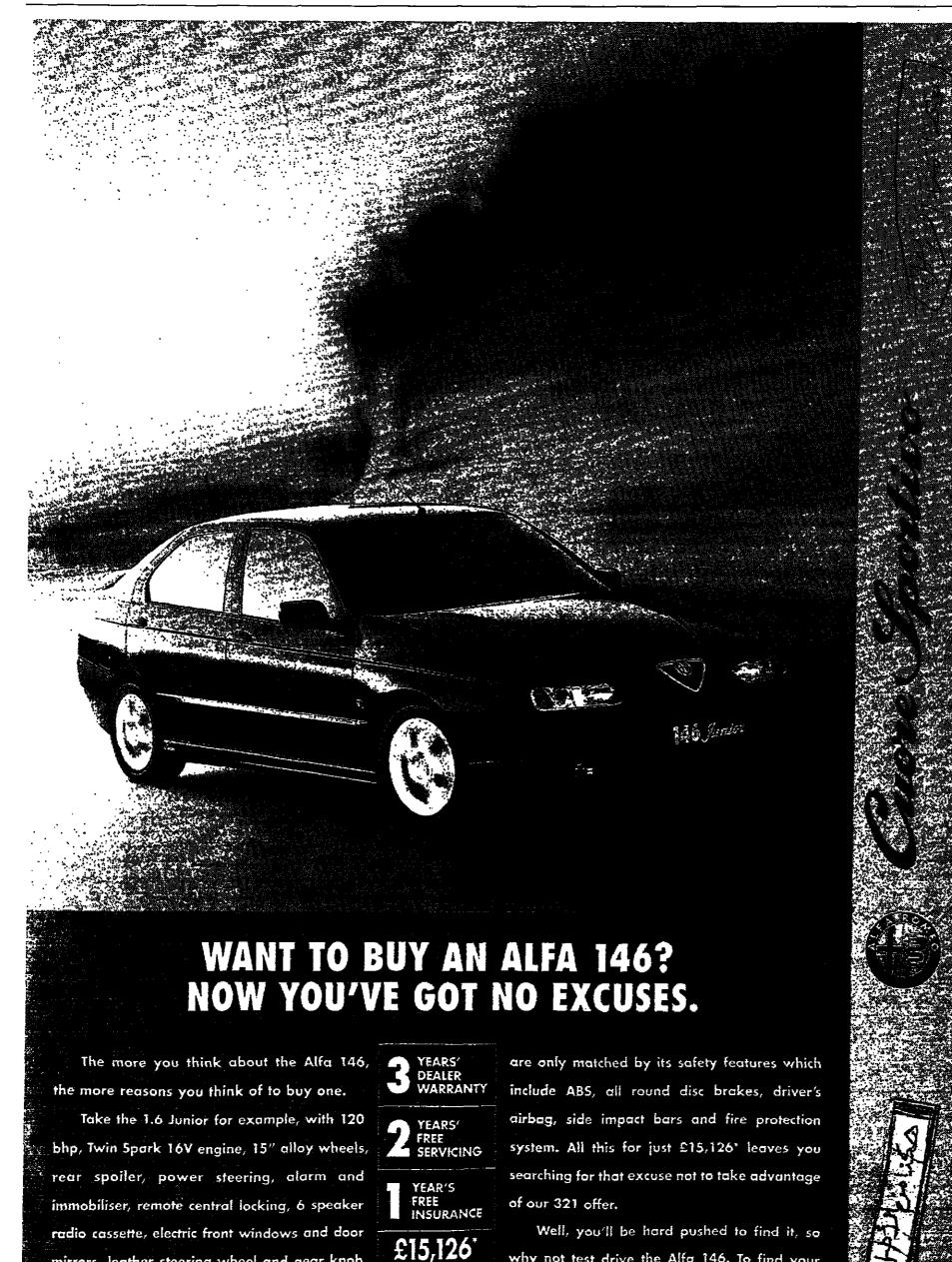
THE search for survivors in the Sydney-Hobart yacht disaster was suspended last night, as the death toll rose to six. Rescue helicopters picked up two bodies, believed to be crewmen from the stricken Winston Churchill, the veteran cutter which sank on Sunday after being pounded by mountainous seas.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority admitted there was little hope of finding a third member of the crew. Rescue authorities have also given up hope for Glyn Charles, the British Olympic vachtsman washed overboard from Sword of Orion Two men from Business Post Nai-

Richard Wing, the Win-ston Church skipper, said he was devalted to lose so many close finds and vowed

never to enterie race again.
Two injure rew members from Solo Gre Challenger, which had be missing, were winched on the Australian naval (rie HMAS Newcastle wested) in Hobert castle yestely.In Hobart, race organis cancelled the trophy presertion and festivi-ties as a ma of respect for those who helost their lives at sea.

The crew the US maxiyacht Sayon arrived in Tas-mania after inning the race in two days 0 hours, three minutes and 2 seconds, five



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alyphat Defiant Iraq ation 10-fly zones THE IMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBEA Defiant Iraq ation 15-fly zones

IRAQ, detenined to remain in the intermional spotlight claimed la night that its warplanes at defied no fly zones police by British and American reraft, which it State-rim awspapers also gave a warng to Arab leaders that theignored popular support for an at their peril.

The so-cled air exclusion

zones existing in the sick imagination the British and American administrations," said Taha assin Ramadan. the Iraqi Vi-President "Iraqi planes, in ect, are still flying in a norme maimer in Iraqi airspace." de, addedi..."Our resistance will combinue against an penetration. The war is sulln."

There we no confirmation from Wasngton or London that Iraqi anes had attempted to prof the air exclusion zones, esplished after the Gulf War protect the Kurdish and his communities from government forces. Iraq. convinced that it has the political arantage after Operation Dest Pox, seems determined keep tensions highand capitise on divisions in the internional community.

On Molay, American warplanes aacked an anti-aircraft batty in northern Iraq, killing for Iraqi soldiers, afsiles werdred at them. Wash-

'Shot-down jet' row rumbles on,

writes Michael

in Nicosia

Theodoulou

ington said that all its Flos had returned safely to their base at incirlik in southern Turkey, although Baghdad continued to claim yesterday that its gurners had shot down a US warplane. It was unable to produce wreckage or a downed pilot.

David Leavy, a National Security Council spokesman, said yesterday that America determination to enforce the no-fly zones remained strong. "Our pilots will obviously take appropriate action . . . the nofly zone prevents Saddam from using his own aircraft to oppress his people and threat-en his neighbours. This re-mains a key element of our containment policy and we will aggressively enforce it."

Claims that Iraqi aircraft are playing car and mouse in the no-fly zones are unlikely to cause alarm. Few Iraqi airkilling for Iraqi soldiers, af craft attempted to engage ter threesurface to air missallied planes during the Gulf

War, when Baghdad dis-

halted patrols there. A US Defence and Admin-

that the flights would resume as soon as possible and said that, despite Iraq's opposition, America was determined to enforce both zones. Flights continued as usual in the south.

and US fighter jets in the most hostile clash since Operation Desert Fox ended nine days

"Splash, splash," said one

voice. Before leaving the area. a voice can be heard saying: "Six bombs hit the target area." (Reuters)

patched the cream of its fighter jets to neighbouring Tehran has claimed them as compensation for its war with

Iraq and refused to return them. The remaining Iraqi fleet has been hit by a shortage of spare parts because of sanctions and the no-fly zones, which cover more than half of Iraq's territory, have limited the ability of pilots to train.

Tirades against regional leaders in the Baghdad press reflects a growing frustration that pro-traci semiment in the Arab world has not translated into official support for the lifting of sanctions.

Al-Qadissiya, echoing the apocalyptic rhetoric of the Gulf War, has issued a warning to Arab leaders that "the snowballing Arab wrath will shake the ground from under

their feet".

Baghdad was particularly stung by President Mubarak of Egypt's clarification on Sunday that his country's opposition to American airstrikes should not be translated into support for the Iraqi Government, which was at "the root of all the problems".

That rebuke was answered by Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, in yesterday's al-Jumhuriya newspaper. "In reality there is no no-ble, fair and intelligent person in Egypt, in the Arah homeland or the whole world shar-ing Mr Mubarak in his deduction," he said.

☐ Washington: The United States released video tape yesterday of its clash with Iraqi forces over the country's northern no-fly zone as bad weather

istration spokesmen insisted

The Pentagon released video tape showing the exchange of fire between Iraqi forces

voice after plumes of smoke could be seen billowing from what the Pentagon said was an Iraqi target.

"Nice shot," said another Renaissance veteran. If anything the Clinton



Dirk Stutzki, a Hamburg zookeeper, gets the measure of Amje, a walrus, during an annual inventory that involves weighing all 2,488 animals

Meaning of life dogs Clinton

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

SPECULATION is rife over which seminars the impeached Bill Clinton will attend when he makes his new year pilgrimage today to the bonding experience known as Renaissance Weekend.

Will he visit "Something that's been bugging me late-ly"? Or how about "My family's lessons for life"? Surely, in the wake of the Monica Lewinsky scandal, he could offer come meaningful thoughts for the half-day session on "Character: What is it? Does it count? Has its meaning changed? How do we teach

He should feel fortunate, perhaps, that last year's seminar entitled "What my spouse is wrong about" is not being

There is no panel on impeachment as such," said Doug Heyl, Renaissance spokesman, but he admits that the subject is bound to come up. Indeed, some think that President Clinton's troubles could affect the positive aura of previous years.

"I think if il be really uncomfortable with the President in an impeachment situation." said Stan Smith, the former Wimbledon champion and a scandal could make the offthe-record sessions more interesting, according to Jonathan Alter, a senior editor at Newsweek, who said: "We're looking forward to a chance to talk about it."

Faced with a daunting agen-da of 365 seminars, Mr Clinton is expected to drop in on only a few. With mild weather forecast, he is likely to devote more time to the superb golf links of Hilton Head, South Carolina. Last year, when be took a walk on the beach with Buddy, then still a puppy, the chocolate labrador got into a spat with a bigger dog. Presi-dential apologies were extended to its owner.

Hillary Clinton is always a keen Renaissance participant, but Chelsea, who has been attending these affairs since she was a little girl, has decided to skip it after spending a family Christmas in the White

miss the chance to meet 1,300 invitees, including six Nobel prizewinners, Il college presidents, three astronauts, a Supreme Court justice, Peter Arnett of CNN, Peter Benchley, the author of Jaws, and Ruth Westheimer, the sex therapist. These and other mostly lib-

eral leaders from diverse



Buddies: Clinton and wayward companion

fields are brought together for the sole objective of personal and national renewal, according to retreat organisers.

The weekends were founded by Philip Lader, now the US Ambassador to Britain, and his wife, Linda LeSourd

ca's future will depend in part on how "we learn from and help each other". The Renaissance idea, they say, is a small

contribution to that process. Meanwhile, back in Washington, a grimmer proceeding was under way. A dozen Republicans - instantly dubbed the 12 angry men - met to organise the prosecution team for Mr Clinton's impeachment trial, due to enter its preliminary phase next week in

The dozen are members of the House Judiciary Committee, which passed two articles of impeachment accusing Mr Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice over the Lewinsky affair. All lawyers, they are on a voyage of uncertainty with little navigational precedent to help them.

One unresolved issue is whether to call Ms Lewinsky and others as witnesses. Some say their testimony would prolong the trial needlessly, given report by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor. Others insist that witnesses are needed to dramatise and reinforce the case.

Henry Hyde, the committee chairman, will formally present the articles of impeachment next week. After that, no one is sure what will happen.

Guevara's comrades honoured

sands of Cubans paid their last respects yesterday to "Tania the Guerrilla", the only woman to fight with the leftwing rebel Ernesto "Ché" Guevara on his last, fateful revolutionary mission in 1967.

The remains of "Tania". whose real name was Haydee Tamara Bunke Bider, were flown in an urn from Havana early yesterday to the central city of Santa Clara.

Along with the remains of nine other killed rebels, includ-ing Cubans and Bolivians, they were displayed to the public, decked in national flags, in a civic building.

Crowds lined the streets and filed past the remains.

"Tania's" bones were uncovered in September in the remore corner of Bolivia where Guevara's band was hunted down and killed by soldiers export Cuban-style revolution to South America.

The remains of the guerril las are to be buried today with full state honours at a mausoleum in Santa Clara which already holds the remains of Guevara and some of the other members of his band in Bolivia. (Reuters)

Mall crusaders tell America to drop shopping

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN NEW YORK

A Iraqi anti-aircraft crew on watch in Baghdad yeerday after Iraq claimed it had downed a plane

A MOVTH ago Han Shan vis-ited in world's biggest mall on itsbusiest day of the year. His eperience turned into one of themore uplifting surprises in thinistory of shopping. Carying a bulky rucksack. Sharslipped into the Mall of

Ameica in Minneapolis - a retaicolossus with 500 shops and 0,000 parking spaces. It was pening time on the day. after hanksgiving, when the Chrismas season is traditionally lunched with a national orgy i unbridled spending. Taking care not to attract

the atention of the mall's privat security force, he climbe 90ft up a steel column into the atrium's roof girders and uturled a giant banner showing planet Earth falling the besteen bottom of throug the broken bottom of a shoping bag. Then he ab-seiled own to be arrested — to applace from many bundreds admiring shoppers.

This's a nation hopelessly addicte, and aware of it. As pre-Chestmas sales roll into post-Christmas sales, American consumer debt is expected to surge past \$4,000 (£2,380) in high-interest credit card bills for every man, woman and child in the country.

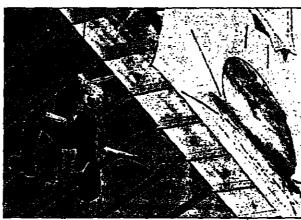
This time last year, barely one in four of them said that they were enjoying Christmas. Nine in ten felt they had over-spent. For those who seek it, there is help. Like dissidents in China, a network of anti-shopping guerrillas has sprung up across the country, picketing malls and distributing anti-consumerist Christmas carol sheets in a valiant attempt to slow the juggernaut of what a recent public television series called "the most extravagant lifestyle the world has ever seen". Since 1950. Americans have consumed more resources than all of humanity before

An estimated 2,000 "voluntary simplicity" groups have started recruiting on street corners and the Internet. Their call to buy less and throw away less has been heeded by a few idealistic yuppies, but mainly by hard-pressed par-ents, half of whom plunged into debt last year to keep up with the Joneses.

This year it has been harder than ever to satisfy the kids through sheer largesse: five of the 15 best-selling toys in America cost more than \$100 each. and an astonishing 96 per cent of children in one survey in cluded a big-screen television on their Christmas wish-list. Mr Shan's Minneanolis

climb was meant to shock, but also to publicise International No Shopping Day, the brainchild of a former New York advertising executive who says that the idea is to undergo a jolt of abstinence and then "let the spirit of frugality wash over the rest of the Christmas

More than a million people worldwide managed to buy nothing for 24 hours, Kalle Lasn claimed, even if not all of them took part in ritual "credit



An anti-shopping activist abseils down the Mall of America shopping centre in Bloomington, Minnesota

card cut-uns" which he also organised for shopaholics. However, retail America was

Alan Mulier marked the day by dressing up as Father Christmas and heading for the tax-free Christiana Mall in Delaware. He sported the full Santa Claus regalia and had a retinue of elves but instead of handing out gifts, he had a stack of flyers suggesting free alternatives such as homemade pies and promises to take out Grandma's rubbish. Within five minutes he had been hauled before the mall's executive director by security. thing evil about a Santa Claus

not encouraging shopping."

he reflected. Not necessarily. This being America, an enterprising few have made fortunes from the simplicity fad. Sarah Ban Breathnach became rich by selling 3.2 mil-lion copies of a book of housekeeping platitudes called Simple Abundance. Many readers, meanwhile, prospered thanks to the surging stock market. The result is a sequel

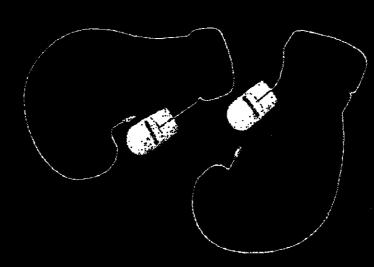
 Something More. True advocates of spending less are realistic about their chances of weaning America off its retail religion. "In my darker moments I think it'll take a catastrophe," Mr Lasn said, while Betsy Taylor, of the Washington-based Centre for New American Dream. sighed: "The chances of us ac-

tually making a difference are

utterly remote." But they soldier on, convinced that they have a duty to articulate an inchoate but widespread yearning for simpler times. They may have a point. Scholars say that real aggregate happiness peaked in America in 1957.



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Will robots take over the world?

This century has seen remarkable scientific breakthroughs, but there is more to come. Anjana Ahuja reports on what is in store for the next 100 years

does science stand at the beginning of an epic period or at the end? As Sir John Maddox writes in What Remains to be Discovered (Macmillan, £20): "This century has been so rich in discovery and so packed with technical innovation that it is tempting to believe that there can never be an-

But Sir John, a former Editor of Nature, believes that this is far from the truth. Yet last week's Mind and Matter (The Times. December 23), which documented what eminent scientists rated as the most important achievements of the century, showed that research over the past 100 years has roamed across an

extraordinary variety of frontiers. Space exploration; the computer revolution: widespread vaccination: the first heart-transplant operation: air travel; test-tube babies; the atomic bomb: genetically engineered foods available in supermarkets. Unravelling the structure of DNA in 1953 ranked in last week's survey as the single most impressive scientific feat of the century.

Some sceptics argue that the 21st century will not deliver similarly profound advances because the golden age of discovery is over. Their view, summarised so provocatively in John Horgan's The End of Science

(Abacus, £8.99), is that the fundamentals of science have been cracked. The Big Bang theory tells us how the Universe started; we now under-stand DNA, the code of life; technologists are close to creating a robot that is as intelligent as any human being.
Others argue that this is an intellectually im-

poverished view of where science is at. The astounding achievements of the past century, they say, do not spell the end of science. Rather, they will do one of two things — pave the way for fu-ture glories or crumble in the face of further evidence, giving rise to completely new theories.

One example of the former is space exploration - without the Moon landings, we wouldn't have the International Space Station, on which construction began this year. On the other hand, Sir John predicts that the Big Bang theory

will undergo a radical overhaul. He points out that some holes in the theory stubbornly refuse to disappear. For example, there is less mass in the Universe than predicted. While some have confidently expected that the "missing mass" would be located, it has yet to be found. Could the next few years throw up a completely new theory of how the Universe started?

Robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) are two related fields which promise much, according to Michio Kaku, physics professor and au-thor of Visions (OUP £18.99). One of the best-known efforts is the Cog Project at the Massa-

chusetts Institute of Technology. Cog is supposed to be the ultimate in

AI — a humanoid robot that can act, talk and even look like a person.

Hans Moravec, an AI pioneer at Carnegie-Mellon University, believes that by 2030 robots will be able to visualise tasks and assess the consequences of their actions. By 2040 robots should be able to reason at least as efficiently as people.

Moravec even envisages a world
where robots will display "superhuman reasoning". By 2050, emotions will be commonplace because they will help machines to bond with their human masters.

But this raises an intriguing question: will robots be so similar to us that they, too, will start wondering where they came from? As well as showing awareness of the world, will they be aware of themselves? In other words, will they be conscious? By the middle of the next century, we may even begin to wonder whether such advanced robots, with their enormous mental capacities and physical strength, pose a threat.

The cyborg — the fusion of man and machine — is another plausible prospect in our lifetime. Doctors have already devised silicon chips that can replace damaged retinas and therefore restore sight; in some laboratories, paralysed individuals can control computers by twitching an eyelid or through the power of thought alone (using the tiny electrical impulses in the brain). One barrier to controlling the human body us-

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s the 20th century draws to a close, of how the Universe began — already so well-es-does science stand at the beginning of tablished that it is enshrined in schoolbooks — wiring diagram for the brain has never been drawn. Yet some scientists estimate that by 2010 it will be feasible to chop a brain into a million slices to determine how each cell is connected. It would be a feat comparable to the Human Genome Project, a \$3 billion study, aimed at listing the 100,000 or so genes in the body.

This project has given rise to some astonishing predictions of how biology will advance. Francis Collins and Walter Gilbert, who run trancis Collins and Walter Gilbert, who run the Human Genome Project at the National Institute of Health near Washington, expect that by 2010 we will have genetic profiles of as many as 5,000 hereditary diseases. By 2030 we will have access to our DNA codes, perhaps on a compact disc. Biologists predict that this will revolutionise medicine. Visiting a doctor in 2030 will entail a scan of your DNA code for signs of disease, then recommendations for pre-

signs of disease, then recommendations for pre-ventive therapy, some of it gene-based. Controversial issues such as designer babies and cloning will come to the fore repeatedly as the science progresses because history shows that parents will take advantage of any technology capable of giving their offspring a better chance in life. For example, parents will pay a fortune for human growth hormone treatment privately, even if their youngsters do not qualify medically, because being tall is thought to confer an advantage. However, since decisions on such matters could have far-reaching implica-tions, progress in the laboratory is bound to be accompanied by vigorous ethical debate.

ext century, scientists will begin thinking seriously about how to pow-er the planet, given that fossil fuels are expected to last only a few more decades. Physicists have turned to fusion - extracting energy from seawater by fusing hydrogen nuclei together. The problem is that to overcome the natural repulsion between two posi-tively charged atomic nuclei, they must be slammed together at between 10 million and 100 million degrees. Creating such temperatures takes energy and multibillion-dollar projects in America. Japan and Germany have failed to produce more energy than they consume. Yet plasma scientists still expect the technique to light up the planet one day. By 2010 the princi-ple should have been demonstrated; by 2050 fusion could be a common energy source.

Harnessing energy from the Sun is another prospect. By 2025 some scientists predict that half the world's electricity will come from the Sun. These areas of research are as exciting and profound as any that have taxed scientists this century. As Sir John sums up: "Who, now, dares to say that the days of surprise are over?"

Electric blues: robots will be designed to have "feelings" but some sceptics fear they may be a tleat



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Einstein's biggest blunder

THE fact that the Universe is expanding has been known for more than 70 years. But er by the Supertwist. According to two independent teams of astronomers, the rate of expansion is accelerating. It looks as if some mysterious anti-gravitational force is pushing the Universe apart, an idea Albert Einstein suspected, and

The finding, announced to some scepticism, has been named Science's breakthrough of the year, and also features as one of 1998's highlights on Physics Web, the Internet site (http://physicsweb. org) run by the Institute of Physics. It is a genuinely shocking result, which makes its rapid acceptance the more remarkable.

"My own reaction is somewhere between amazement and horror," says Brian Schmidt, an Australian astronomer and member of the High-z Supernova Research Team, when in February he announced results confirmed a month earli-Cambridge, England, and Berkelev. California Both

reached their conclusions by measuring the brightness of distant susions. These huge events, caused by the explosions of

stars too large to be stable, provide astronomers with a useful Mathematics tells us the

precise point at which a star expands too much and explodes. In the case of Type la supernovae, this happens when the star is one of a pair and gradually acquires material from its companion. Wherever the star may be in the Universe, the moment it tips over the limit, the explosion will be the same. This



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

supernova That can also be measured by the red shift of the galaxy in which the supernova is found - the de-

tist's smîle.

gree to which its light is shifted to the red end of the spectrum, which in turn is linked to its distance from us. The two teams have stud-

ied distant Type la supernovae, which are rare: in a typical galaxy they occur only two or three times every thousand years. The Cambridge-Berkeley team has been at it for more than a decade, and has analysed 42 such explosions. Their brightness and red

as standard can are. If the Universe has been two measurements should ing the sky with a agree. But they do not.

Both teams conclude that as an orthodonthe distant supernovae are about 10 to 15 per cent further The brightness we see, however. away than they should be, even on the most generous of depends also on assumptions. Professor Richhow far away the ard Ellis, of Cambridge University, says: "Astonishingly, both teams agree that the Universe is accelerating."

Explaining why is tricky. When Einstein wrote the equations of general relativity in 1917, he assumed that the Universe was static and coined a term, the cosmological constant, to account for a force that would stop it collapsing under gravity and make his equations fit. A dozen years later, Edwin Hubble found that the Universe was expanding, and Einstein realised his constant was no longer needed. He called it "the biggest blunder of my life".

Maybe he was right all along.

Quitting it a stroke

get them to give up. A hea attack will almost certain do it, but only if the smok is educated to at least degre/cv-

el. scientists have found. Dr Linda Wray and olleagues of the Institut of Social Research at the niversity of Michigan stued 2.391 smokers aged 51 t/61. who were familiar anti-smoking messages ut chose to ignore them. Inhe Journal of Health ad Social Behaviour the searchers say that ever a heart attack could not alwys persuade hardened casesto

k .

2.7

give up. Without a heart attack, tually none gave up betwen 1992 and 1994, regardlessof education. In general, le higher the level of educatio. the less likely anybody is o smoke, but by 1992, those who were going to give p had presumably done so. Among those who had s fered a heart attack, edcational level accurate predicted what happend next. Only those with at lest

a high-school education changed their behavior. and each additional yearof education greatly increased the likelihood of quitting postgraduate degree an a heart attack almost guaintee a smoker will quit. Ipw we know what PhDs areor.

Radar homes in on shellfish diet

pipers - can just as easily detect small ebbles as shellfish. These pebbles have no smell, are the same temperature as the sand and emit no signals of any sort, so the team conclude that the birds detect them by their effect on the flow of wa-

It works like this. When the knot push-

stices between the grains. This wave is reflected back, and detected by cells in the horny layer at the end of the beak. Any objects larger than a grain of sand show up like aircraft on a radar screen.

This works only in wet sand, explaining why the birds always follow the tide as it ebbs. It also explains why they feed only in areas free from stones, and how they survive at all on inter-tidal flats where shellfish are rare.

es its beak into the sand, it creates a pres-

sure wave in the water lying in the inter-

HOVER SPEED to Calais, Boulogne, Ostend

SANDPIPERS can locate

shellfish under wet sand

by dipping their beaks a

mere quarter-inch into it

for a few seconds, which

Just how they accomplish this has been

discovered by a Dutch team from The

Netherlands Institute for Sea Re-

search and the Universities of Gronin-

Their experiments showed that knots

short-billed, Arctic-breeding sand-



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All ears tuned to a Furby in swaddling clothes

Thursday morning Desperare to escape the special claustrophobia of Manhattan for a few days, we have been staying in the twee but wonderfully seductive village of East Hampton - 100 miles east of the city on Long Island, where the only buildings permitted to be taller than two storeys are windmills. The summer home to a parade of celebrities, including Steven Spielberg, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein and the rap impresario Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs. East Hampton has been been voted America's most beautiful village, and on Christmas Eve we wake to find it even

more enchanting after 6in of snow have fallen in the night. Owing to the rigorous town zoning committee, the decorations are uniform, and on the white picket gate of almost every house hangs an identi-cal fir witeath while mock candles linker at every window. Even the sails on the central windmill are bordered with tiny white lights.

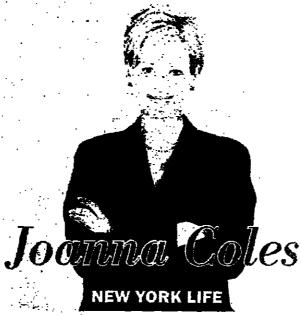
But our chief concern is how we are going to drive back to Manhattan by the afternoon. It is our first experience of snow since moving to I demand. He nods, produc-

one of the feeblest dustings on record - and, used to Britain grinding to a halt under even the lightest of coatings, we make elaborate preparations for a nightmare journey back. Loading up with muffins, blankets and a spade, we assume that the two-hour drive back may take us three times as long.

Our fears are unfounded Though the spowfall was sud-den, the local news informs us that hundreds of snowploughs have been shovelling their way across Long Island since midnight, busily scatter-ing salt and grit over every available surface. Though it is still snowing when we set off. it takes us exactly the same time to get back as it did with no snow at all. :

Thursday evening: Finishing some final shopping. I am walking down Broadway when a man approaches me with a black plastic sack over his shoulder. "Psst, psst," he hisses, almost comically. Wanna Furby?"

I shake my head but only five steps farther I am unable to resist. "Are they real ones?" New York - last year was, ing a choice of black, grey or



white "\$120," he says, shoving a grey one at me. Where did you get them?

He laughs and glances around furtively. "OK, OK -

He nods again and, scarceable to believe what I am

cash I had earmarked for the

Friday: Triumphant at having found one, we take the Furby to Christmas hunch at friends', where it chatters Furbish and entertains a roomful their dog, a Yorkshire terrier of a somewhat nervous dispo-

we hit a snag. We have tickets for The Theory of Flight, starring Helena Bonham Carter. who plays a young woman disease. All goes well to begin with, but as soon as Helena begins to use her Stephen Hawking-style automated voicebox, the Furth un-accountably breaks into a Hawking-style

Nye-tye, nye-tye," it chirrups frantically (which means "tickle me" in Furbish; from the bottom of its carrier bag. The more Helena uses her synthetic voice, the more the Furby responds with its ludicrous cheeping. The whole cinema is tut-tutting and looking round for the source of the noise but we play innocent, until at last the woman sitting in the next seat rumbles us.

Peter dives into the bag and, unable to remove the batteries without a screwdriver, swaddles the Ferby in

"Achoo! Hold me," says the little falsetto voice, only slightly muffled by its cashmere gag. The surrounding nut-ruts are increasingly menacing so Peter reaches back into the bag again. I hear a souzwk

and Furby falls silent. Back home we unwrap the little critter and examine it. Its cars are at a strange angle and though its saucer eyes are wide open. from it since.

Saturday night: We're invited no a Boving Day party by British

friends who live in Brenxville. smari suburb 25 chirruped minutes north of the air so I order a minicab. As we slide into the back seat the driver is leaning out of his think he is being sick, then realise he is brushing his terth, noisily spit-

white froth before swilling a bonde of Poland Spring round his gums and rinsing his brush. "That's better." he says, retracting his head and slamming the door. He is clearly trying to hide an unseemly scent. "Alcohol or dope," whispers Peter as we

budde up. Though I have specifically ised, a driver who knows the way, when we give him our destination he admits that he has never heard of Bronsville. "I normally do airports," he says cheerfully, "Are you sure you don't mean the Bronx?"

He reluctantly retrieves an elderly map, most of whose pages have come unstuck and been stuffed back appar-'Nye-tye,' it ently at random.

"Oh dear," he

says, squinting, as Peter shuffles the

one with Bronx-

ville, "My eyes

Wait a minute."

the glove compart-

ment and produ-

ces a magnifying

pages and finds from the bottom aren't so good. of the

carrier bag

sighted." he says unnecessarily, peering at a wrong page.
The drive itself is a terrifying glide up the icy Henry Hudson Parkway. While

directions. I find it too frightening to look ahead so I concentrate instead on the side view. Washington Heights swishes by and then Yonkers. Every house and every apartment in every block seems to be festooned with festive lights. Rudolph reindeers flash on and off; mechanical Father Christmases tugging sleighs wave from rooftops, rainbous over doorways, chimneys and halconies, and no house is without a luminous Christmas tree purposefully placed at a front window for passers-

When we arrive I remark on this to our hosts, a British couple resident here for nearly a decade and whose own pretty tree is discreetly placed in the drawing room. They point out that unlike British homes, where decorations are largely reserved for interior consumption, the sole point of American decorations is to show them off to as many people as possible.

Indeed, the country adopts a free-market approach to December, embracing Ram-adan, Hanukkah, Christmas and the African festival of Kwanzaa. Most cards are scrupulously inter-faith, wishing the recipient a cheery Happy Holidays so as to be acceptable to Christian and Jew. Muslim and animist alike.

A small miracle in Kosovo

On Christmas Day, amid the dangers of the Serbian conflict, peace monitors helped to deliver a baby. Lucy Hawking reports

give-bitth. In sub-zero temperatures, in a war zone, and on a snowy road, the car carrying a heavily pregnant Albanian woman had broken down. Fortunately for her and her kusband, the only other vehicle on the road. weighed nine tonnes, was painted bright orange and was driven by three of the international monitoring force stationed across the embattled

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Yugoslav province of Kosovo. When this man flagged us down, we thought he wanted us to tow his car out of the way," says police officer Wil-, liam Clark, head of that day's OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe) patrol through southeast Kosovo. "We get stopped allthe time - everything from gunshot wounds to 'Somebody shot my horse and I want it

dragged out of the driveway."
Yet this situation was different from anything the team had encountered so far. Inside the stranded car, the pregnant woman's waters had broken. Unless the monitors acted fast. the baby would be born in freezing conditions and its chances of survival would be slim. "Charlie, our driver, looked into the car, where the woman was clutching her belly and screaming, and shouted We have a problem here." Clark recalls.

The woman needed to reach a hospital immediately, but the guidelines that govern the off the long johns. Clark real-

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monitors state that they are HMMV (known as a Hum-Vee), a heavily amoured car

about that," says Clark. said, I'll take the heat, Back this vehicle up, get her in and we're going to go'."

There is not much space inside an HMMV. With four small seats and a central metal platform under the gunner's turret, the three monitors. interpreter, bushand and enormous pregnant woman had little room to manoeuvre, let alone deliver a baby. The hus-band crouched on the central platform next to his wife in the back seat while Clark and his colleague, John Tetreault, a policeman from New England, tried to assess the woman's-condition, communicat-

ing through their interpreter.

I asked when her waters had broken and the interpreter said But she's not carrying any water," says Clark, who is also a paramedic. "I examine her and find that she is wearing two pairs of wet, heavy long johns. I tell her to breathe, breathe, breathe and don't push as I don't want a traumatic birth here." Cutting.

not supposed to give local peo-ple a lift in their US Army painted orange to stand out as instantly identifiable. As a diplomatic vehicle, that particular HMMV had the status of the baby to be born inside it, he would have been an American critzen. Course, we're not thinking

ised the baby had entered the the vehicle and Clark and birth canal - meaning birth Croft ran up three flights of was minutes, if not seconds, spiral staircase, carrying the woman on the stretcher. "It was like running with a water-In the front, driver Charles meion on a plate," recalls Clark. They deposited their

at double the speed he would carry to stay in contact with unusual message to his HQ: Three-Zero, this is Three-Four. We're going to have to were back out on patrol," says

In the back, Tetreault and Clark were trying to handle the situation. Clark says: "I'm thinking may-. be we should stop and have the baby here, the bouncing is not going to be good for its amniotic fluid, and it's all cold metal in there. But Charlie says we're five minutes

outside the town so I try to get her breathing. Try teaching that to

> the central Kosovan town of Suva Reka were astonished to tling down the icy road with lights flashing and horn blar-ing. But close as it was to the blocked its way. "We came up behind a bus travelling at about two miles an hour," says Croft. "I start to go round the bus, with the traffic coming the other way, and find I'm behind a horse and cart. The husband is babbling in Al-banian, the interpreter is trying to tell us what he's saying, the eadio is asking where are

four and grand-'I tell her father of three. But the day's excitement was not to breathe over. After escorting a police convoy and then deliver-- I don't ing aid parcels to a small village, they want a came across a car on, fire, "So we jump out of the traumatic Croft. "I take the birth' fire extinguisher. I run up and I lie down behind the car and give it a few squirts underneath." Croft doused the flames which had spread along the whole car. Only when the initial emergency was over did the monitors realise who these people were. "That car did not belong to nor-

cargo on a delivery table,

where three minutes later she

gave birth to a 7lb 4oz boy. "I called into Three-Zero from

the car and told them the moth-

er and baby were fine and we

Croft, a father of

when I said, we are on our way home!" Driving back to base, the monitors drop into Suva Reka hospital to return the shoes the woman had left in the vehicle, also thinking that they would like to see the baby. But just three hours later, the woman, her baby and her husband had been discharged into the uneasy atmosphere of Kosovo. "Perhaps it's a shame the baby wasn't born in the Hum-Vee." says one monitor. "Perhaps it

mal citizens," says Clark. "All these guys in camouflage

fatigues and black berets were

standing around. It was the

KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army - the military wing of the inde-

pendence -movement). That's

Heroes: John Tetreault, William Clark and Charles Croft



What perils do these babies face? Newborns share cots in a hospital in Kosovo, but are often swiftly discharged with their mothers into the uneasy atmosphere of the conflict

Croft sent the HMMV flying usually travel. Using the twoway radio, which all monitors their base. Croft broadcast the

an Albanian woman giving birth at 40 miles an hour." Pedestrians walking though

see the familiar bright car hurhospital, obstacles still

you and the woman in the back is about to give birth.
"We get to the hospital, I lean out of the car and see a woman in a white coat, so I yell at her Baby! Baby! Baby"," says Croft, churching his own impressive stomach.

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NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL THE YEAR 2000 - NOT EVEN A DEPOSIT

Bronwen Maddox admits to a

passion for antique Americana

t crept up on me, like any mild addiction. But I now have a visceral leap of guilty excitement if I see a brightly coloured flag hanging out of a dusty shop, even before I make out the word

In my third year of living in Washington, I find I have been sucked into a quiet cult with disciples across America. In its secret language, the object of desire is called junque, or junktiques. Its devotees are known to spend whole weekends "antiquing".

It started, I insist, out of necessity, as I arrived in Washington with no furniture. At first I rented some and, in a careless moment, wrote about it. Despite the success of the experiment — the sheer ease of ordering furniture and sending it away again - I found myself dogged by that hastily dashed-off piece, a plight many journalists will recog-nise. It became clear that whatever I wrote about Nato or Bosnia or, indeed, Monica, there would be someone asking kindly "how is your rented

It had to go, if only to lay the

ghost of that arti-cle, but its exit left me again with a I have bare house. Yet there is a problem with buying furniture — or, indeed, sucked into anything — in Washington, You a quiet cult think you are arriving at the capital of with many the world's forecapitalist disciples economy. In fact

you are landed in a fortress of local near-monopolies, which might as well be centrally planned for all their shelves have to offer. Furniture is expensive, takes five months to deliver and then may not be quite what you thought you were

There was also the influence of my mother's family in small-town Massachusetts. My mother and I had spent an absorbing week a few summers ago clearing out a relative's house after he died. It was a memorable trawl through the objects of 1950s America, with agents from the Cape Cod antique shops wandering covetously around the house, saying "you could get \$50 for that red rocking chair,

you know". The lesson stayed: American "antiques" are fun, pretty, occasionally beautiful, and cheap. I began to dip into the local shops on weekend forays from DC into the Blue Ridge Mountains, the rolling Maryland farm country and the fishing villages of Chesapeake Bay. As the city's residents understandably emphasise, one of the luxuries of Washington is that it's so easy to get

I started, by virtue of a bare kitchen, buying old glass bowls and glasses. Beautiful, ridged bowls and water pitchers were \$5 each; what is quaintly called "Elegant Depression" glass. Strong, graceful patterns from the 1950s

cost only slightly more. There are, of course, real antiques among the clutter tables and beds from the 1870s, in woods not often seen in Britain: pale gold maple

and lots of dark red cherry. And there are true bargains, particularly old, ornately painted chairs with wicker seats; they are several inches too narrow for the modern American taste but, provided your friends are slim, they're fine. And there are everyone's favourite toys from the past — jukeboxes and tin trucks. But what you would call old or valuable. "Seventeen years" said one proprietor firmly, when I asked the criterion for

The spring from which the antique trade flows, in fact, is 1950s America. I realised that I was seeing my relative's kitchen again and again, right across the country. I fell into the habit of stepping into the shops to kill 20 minutes before an interview; they are also a reliable source of air-conditioning, cutting through through the summer heat of the Deep South. Everywhere, exactly the same household objects, drawn from an age when every home in America had

the same stuff. The care - in fact, fanaticism — with which they are

displayed is part of the claustrophobic appeal. There is a particular kind of flour-sifter which used to be popular, back in the days suburban mothers baked cakes from scratch. It has a metal cylinder with a sieve in the bottom, and a handle on the side turning a wire

wheel to push the flour through. One warehouse I wandered into, in Frederick, Maryland, had perhaps 400 of them lined up neatly on shelves, for 20 cents each.

The shops tend to have a wholesome smell of grain and leather, partly because of the inevitable rows of footballs and suitcases at the entrance. But there is something overpoweringly pathetic about them. Not least, they tend to crop up in battered little towns bearing the names of bloody Civil War battlefields, which now have no other commerce than the junk trade.

fter only a month or so, I found my new prececupation embarrassing. If visitors squealed over the booty — where on earth did you get this? — I mumbled a reply, aware that the effort could never be justified. A male house guest with excessively developed cyber-agility complained suspiciously: You've wiped the history directory of your Internet file. I would rather have confessed to the implied accusation that I'd been trawling through some murky trough of pornography — than have left the images of Virginia antique

stores on the hard drive. I reached saturation quickly, not from lack of space but from lack of desire to build a museum to the 1950s. The junktiques are blended in with the rest of the house, undetectable, I hope, to visitors. Probably I'll have them for ever although, as with rented furni ture, there is the certain knowledge that you can send it



Our moral wasteland

t is often argued that there is "no new thing under the sun". as until now, has there been anything like the observation in The Guardian by a spokesman for Castle Morpeth council that residents of private care homes are "income-pro-ducing raw material" and the dead represent "the waste produced by the

Is it a new moral thing, or an old, that a lesbian couple practising self-insemination should, before breaking up their partnership, have had two DIY babies using a pickle jar and syringe? Or that another similar couple should purchase the frozen sperm of a stranger via the Internet? And when, until now, would a distinguished surgeon, describing the prospect of taking a dead person's face and draping it over the skull of a living man or woman", declare, as The Times reported, that

an armchair"? Is it an old moral thing, or a new moral thing, that there is now an arson attack in at least three schools every day? Or that one in three churches can expect to be the target of an attack of some kind - theft, vandalism, arson — each year? Or that malicious vandalism is now the biggest cause of railway accidents? Or that 86 per cent of alarm calls in the Metropolitan Police area are shown to be false? Or that trees and shrubs planted in memory of the Dunblane victims were stolen within

"it is simply like changing the cloth of

days from the local cemetery? Has there ever before been such violence directed in a time of peace by youth against the frailest and most elderly, so that even women in their eighties come to be raped? Is it an old thing under the sun, or a new, that doctors - it is estimated that 1,000 of them are assaulted each year teachers and priests should feel themselves at risk from those for whom they care? When, before, could nursing be regarded as Britain's "most dangerous profession" with one nurse in three, compared with one policeman in four, suffering an act of violence in accident and

emergency units? The temptation to retreat into the safety of unknowing derial and disbelief is strong. Yet into this moral quagmire the Office for National Statistics and other bodies continue to pour their data on the composition of households, population changes, mar-

In a Britain ruled by evasion and cynicism, few dare to speak of right

and wrong, says David Selbourne

The

temptation

to retreat

into denial

and

disbelief is

strong

and much else. As early as the year 2000, nuclear unities could be outnumbered by steplamilies. By the year 2020, with present trends, one in three people in Britain will be living alone and most women will be single, only 48 per cent of them being wives as such. Married

couples will be a minority. In this whirlpool, the intensifying corruption of our sensibilities, the hubris of technological experiments with the human body, the genetic abuse of the natural order, the disrespect for the carer, the aggression of the impatient, the self-harming of the young, and the accelerating fragmentation and dissolution of the

ethically conjoined. They are, in combination, le thal in their effects, each element intricately, and sometimes causally. linked to another.

And yet there are, everywhere, evasions. These seek to show, and have us believe, that nothing can any longer be done about our moral condition, or that nothing needs to be done about it, since there is nothing much at fault with it in the first place.

The cynicism and amoralifurther cause of our ills. "The moral issue is dead." declares

Hugo Young in The Guardian. "The family has had it," says Sara Maitland, again in The Guardian, seeming to gloat over its "terminal sickness". "When politicians talk about strengthening the family, liberals reach for their revolvers," says Polly Toynbee, also in The Guardian. Families are by their nature Darwinian units." argues Simon Jenkins.

demeaningly, in The Times. And marriage? The cynic and the amoralist are hard at work on it, once more with women to the fore. Here is Tania Kindersley in The Times:
"Nobody seems able to tell me why we're still doing it ... Surely we have are free and can set others free ... in comment@the-times.co.uk

riage and divorce rates, drug abuse the imagination to come up with something better ... than an institu-

tion that came in with the Ark?" This is a mere glimpse into a small part of the moral wasteland being made for us - or, it seems, being in some cases sedulously striven for — by our fellows, and to which the media give an ever enlarging and unwarranted space.

It is a cynicism which saps is no quick for for a given ethical commitment by attrition, amorally dilemma; the excuse that "this is the rearing its head in every field of debate. Are you concerned, for example, about the increasing incidence of must move with the tide"; the cliché violence reported to be committed by that "it is no use turning the clock young girls? You may well be. But, back" the insistence that a problem is replies a "professor of gender rela-"much more complex than you

> likely to be more assertive issue"; the defence that "people in ... If women are becom- glass houses shouldn't ..." and the ing more active in society, base evasion that, since "everyone their behaviour is more does it", how can you object? likely to be like men's." Guardian: "If, to prove their equality, they have

ens it. The common link

ty with which some address our with all these commentators is that moral and social confusions are a an important ethical issue generally

denial, or amoral rubbishing, of assiduously promoted, about the belief and value. Its reach is now far latter. It is a drastic combination. and wide, even getting at the very core and crux of the idea of principle tiself. Consider John Lloyd in The Evasion, published today by the Times: "If one does not stand for policies in the old sense... then you are free and can set other free."

these merry, piping times of peace, a Prime Minister (Blair) who stands for nothing is the best leader to have... for that is the way the times must move and 'isms' would stop it."

You would be as wrong to look for irony in this last sentiment, as for principle. It is a nadir of its kind. It emanates from a moral wasteland made bleaker by the evasion of moral responsibility and engagement

There are many types of such evasion, but II arguments recur when a moral problem confronts us. There is the notion that "there is nothing you can do about it, or not much"; the idea that "it has never been any different": the proposition that "there price of a free society"; the call that "everything is changing and you tions" in The Times, "Young women think"; the alibi that a problem is are much more positive "beyond the reach of law"; the smear about themselves and are that "you are focusing on the wrong

> The cumulative effect of these And, says a woman aca- evasions is often to paralyse debate demic researcher in The itself. And when all other argument fails, the objector is dismissed as a "moral crusader"; a "moral authorito punch someone, then so be it."
>
> We are continually being given sight of a cynichological action. The old standby — "right-wing". One ends with a situation in which even a chorch leader, the Bishop of Edincism which dwells in burgh can pronounce "moralising moral darkness, and deep- to be "one of the least attractive of

human characteristics". Evasion and falsehood are widely employed to give the slip to the idea lies latent within their arguments, that common moral rules can and and that, seemingly in consequence, a should exist. There has not been, destructive urge is aroused to dese-crate a moral truth or civic principle. concern for, and insistence upon, the "The first thing you notice, as you promotion and expansion of individu-plead to get out of jury service," noted al rights in an already deeply free Catherine Bennett in The Guardian, society. Yet this culture of rights "is how many others are doing the coexists with a cynicism about the same thing." This is to dump ordure distinctions between right and wrong. There is no shame shown in this about the former and every doubt.

Mass protest

SMART Roman Catholics are in revolt. Bad enough that Brompton Oratory in Knightsbridge, the bastion of traditionalism favoured by the good and the great, is planning to abandon Tridentine Latin during Vespers. But far worse, congregants fear that Father Ignatius Harrison is considering watering down the liturgy to compete with Holy Trinity Brompton. The Evangelical establishment around the corner, which provided Jonathan Aitken (pictured) with spiritual sustemance during his

time of need, has been attracting increasing numbers of smart young Catholics to its more laid-

back, happy-clappy services. The Oratory has been popular with the beau monde for years. It has provided comfort to the Blairs. During last summer's Wimbledon, Boris Becker and his wife Barbara baptised their son at the church. Jerry Hall (pictured) joined the celebrations there at the September wedding of Princess Maria-Theodora Lowenstein to Manfredi della Gherardesca, the brother of the Duchess of York's Italian Count.

But, despite high-profile support. concern about filling pews has brought forward the idea of dropping Latin and engendered a bout of wrathful letter-writing in the parish pump. The more up-todate you are, the sooner you are out of date. Leave Vespers alone" is the kind of tone taken. I would love to eavesdrop on confessions.



● PETER MANDELSON'S Neighbourhood Watch is fed up with doorstepping journalists pinching the locals' parking spaces. "They leave their engines running all day." one woman moans. "The ones from ITN are the worst."

Strike a light THE plan by Christian Churches to provide all 23.5 million house-

holds in Britain with a candle for



be unexpectedly pricey. Catholics, Anglicans and Methodists will spend a further £2.35 million because they failed to take into account the danger of revellers engulfing themselves in conflagrations of biblical proportions.

Originally, the Churches had budgeted on 20p per candle pack. Now they will have to spend an extra 10p per household to cover the cost of using fire-resistant plastic. But the message seems not to have got through to churches in Witshire and Dorset: they have published a millennium booklet called New Start: New Fire.

• LAUREN BACALL (right) is ganging up with Joan Azelrod, Elizabeth Taylor and Sybil Burton Christopher to build a rose garden in Los Angeles in memory of the late Roddy McDowall. It never Millennium Eve has turned out to fails to amaze me how an actor

whose most famous role involved and be looking for a deputy." A wearing a rubber ape mask should chance for Ron Davies, Morgan's attract such a glamorous fan club. friend, to make a comeback?

Hit and Ron?

preparing if necessary to be a bad time moving furniture together," loser in the election for King of says Caroline Chartres. "Some-Wales. If the Labour MP cannot times this involves crawling defeat Alun Michael, Tony Blair's around on hands and knees, favourite, in the ballot for leader of trying to dismantle larger items: the Welsh assembly, he plans to call a vote of no confidence as soon as the parliament gathers.

Table with the Bishop's Wife."

as the parliament gathers.
"If enough leftwingers are elected, Rhodri believes he could win the vote," says a top Taff. "He would then hope to fill the top role



London tells me about her relation-RHODRI MORGAN, I bear, is "Fred and I spend quite a lot of

Bar extension

LINDA BELLOS'S old stamping. ground most be changing. Phillip Oppenheim, the former Conservative Treasury Minister, was worried that he would face a kangaroo court when he applied to Lambeth council to expand his Cuban bar at

Waterloo. Greeted by a cabel of lefties protesting about his lack of respect for Fidel Castro, the millionaire playboy feared the worst. But when the crunch came, Oppenheim's application sailed through. As he departed, the chairman bellowed after him: "I hope the former Tory minister will report on the fairness and reasonableness of the new Labour regime."



THIS splendid picture of Michael Heseltine attempting to recupture the young man about town image of his undergraduate days at Ouford has landed on the drawbridge of Diary Towers, The former Deputy Prime Minister took to the burntables after opening the Purple Turde, a fasicionable new dancehall run by the Organi Union Heseltine was invit-Oppora Union Hesseltine was invit-ed because, as Union president in BSL, he opened Caford's first nightfub. Remembering that year. Hezza played Nat King Gole's Smile, a track which ap-pears to have failed to impress the audience. Miserable lot.

JASPER GERARD

Alan Coren



Just what I always wanted. No, honestly...

y heart goes out to chums, it really does. I know what it's like. I empathise utterly. For today is that unique day when you will all be compelled to do what I am compelled to do every day. Today, you are all hacks.

Throughout the hung over queeridom, you are all sitting crouch-backed and desperate at desks and tables, hands trembling over paper, teeth gnawing pens, brains like tum-ble-dryers tossing tangled words about in the intercranial hot air, while beside you the crumpled detritus of defeat scatters around your overflow-ing waste bins. You are doing this because it is Post-Christmas Day and you are frantically seeking original expressions, apt quotations, unique references, little quips and all the clusive syllables that quality composition requires; you have to do this because you have been paid in advance for your literary efforts with bottles and socks, and brooches and books. and ties and cellphones, and umbrellas and mugs, and nightgowns and pipes, and dozens of digital thises and thats, and now there is nothing for it but to gird the loin and get scribbling, for the tocsin has struck the hour of deadline.

And where I most feel for you, as we all sit at this selfsame moment struggling to cobble, is that you will be forced to cobble so many fibs. It is second nature to professional hacks, some might say first nature, but not to you. You are all honest folk, unused, certainly untrained, to being economical with the truth or, more accurately, profligate with the fiction. But that, I'm afraid, is

what hackery is all about. Glance beyond that hummock of unbinned gift-wrap-ping to the corner where your presents wait in line to be thanked for oh look, there is a conical flask of some virescent cordial from the Urals, it is 120 proof and has a clove of garlic in it, you have already removed its cork for a sip that buckled your knees and sent a crackling blue are across your fillings, but you must now write about your flabbergasted joy at discovering a whole new taste sensation, ensuring that the grateful words chosen are different from those you will subsequently pen for the giver's wife (they will compare letters), who sent you a pair of tartan slippers three sizes too large and who has to be told she will be thought of whenever you snuggle into them Which is to say, but don't, whenever you fall downstairs.

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See those three copies of A

Man In Full? They are,
of course, from three different donors who put an immense amount of thought into the kind of book you like, but not quite enough to conclude that you might therefore have bought it already. You now have four copies of Mr Wolfe's shimmering doorstop. three of them inscribed. You will thus be required not only to write three letters of equally bogus thanks, but to chuck your own copy away and replace it on your shelves with one of theirs, always remember-ing either to check it or to switch it when one of them turns up at your house, lest for some reason he pluck it out.

Similarly, you may, from now on, have to weigh your pockets down with four cigarene lighters, in case you happen to run into any of the four generous souls to whom you are about to write with egregious thanks for the Dun-hill/Zippo/Ronson — the one lighter you have always dreamt of owning. Feel free to write this letter with either of the fountain pens you have just been given, though extreme care will have to be taken when you thank either of those two donors, because one pen arrived with a blue cartridge in and one with a black, and your benefactors might have tried them out in the shop and would be puzzled when told that theirs was the one you were writing this with what a wonderful rife, what a beautiful barrel, I shall never use

anything else. But for those of you who have just received 17 different flagons of either aftershave or perfume (or, I suppose, in some cases both). I have no literary tips. All I can suggest is that you write to the donors saying how staggered you are at their having hit on the only fragrance you ever use, and - to ensure the very happy 1999 I wish you - remember to spend the emire year standing down-wind of all of them.



KIDNAP IN YEMEN

Yemen may be beautiful, but it is also deadly

The killings yesterday of British tourists in order to strengthen their claims for new held hostage in Yemen come as a tragic shock. Diplomats, travel companies and newspapers alike have portrayed Yemeni kidnappers as the hospitable providers of one of the fringe benefits of Arabian travel. Captives have usually been treated as honoured guests, feasted in every refuge. while their kidnappers have been viewed more as traditional men of business than armed threats to life and liberty. Yesterday's tragedy is an anomaly; yet it may have made Yemen a safer country to visit.

EMBER 30,

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These deaths follow hard on the heels of those of the four engineers killed in Chechnya. Links will inevitably be made. Many will lay responsibility at the door of incompetent security forces. After all, the victims of Abyan and Grozny died during apparent rescue attempts by forces without the training or expertise of our own SAS. Yet ending a siege is always risky, whoever undertakes the task - even the successful end to the 1980 Iranian Embassy siege saw one captive killed. Some might say, therefore, that negotiations must be allowed to run their course. But the moral obligation to act to protect those held against their will, on threat of death, must be maintained. Many will argue that Yemen is now as dangerous as Chechnya. Hostage-taking has been a staple of Yemeni politics for centuries. The last Imam of North Yemen, ousted by a Nasser-inspired coup, governed his frac-tious country by holding representatives of the principal clans and tribes, who lived (and travelled abroad) as his honoured guests, and had body parts removed when assurances of good conduct were broken. (British administrators in the south were not prepared to mutilate their own hostages in return.) Recent kidnappings have been conducted on similar lines as tribes, feeling excluded from the benefits of development, have seized Western tourists

roads or oil revenues.

But kidnapping has never been a feature of tribal politics in the south. Abyan district is the ultra-loyal home of Vice-President Abd Rabbah Mansour Hadi - a man promoted for the support he brought to the

Sanaa Government in the victous civil war in 1994. A direct challenge to a Government keen to stamp out kidnapping as a bargaining device, in a district commanding the vital trade road to al-Mukalla (the south's second port), result not be countenanced. The tragedy of vesterday's victims is that they were chiefen in the middle when the counter of Victorians. when the consensual rules of Yemeni

kidnapping had to charge. As ever in Arabia, firme may be more to Sanaa's actions than it is inside lay be ingre to sanaa's actions than it is inside final was set up in the wake of the 1896 union of North and South Yemen to extend Sanaa President Ali Abdullah Saleh's hold over the nominally socialist south. Following the civil war of 1994, which President Saleh won, Islamic Jihad was used to kill off socialist officials who still posed an obstacle to Sanaa's hegemony. But its growing assertiveness led Sanaa to close down its training camps and arrest its leader. Sunday's kidnapping was Islamic Jihad's response.

Britain has always maintained that the only response to kidnappers is to resist their demands. It has been at the forefront of the international community's attempts to convince Sanaa of the same. Outsiders' best protection is a viable State which can guarantee their safety. By turning on his own Islamic Jihad - no matter how clumsily handled the action, or how macchiavellian the motives behind it -President Saleh has attempted to send a signal to those who would prey on visitors to the land of frankincense and the Hadramaut. But it has been a costly one.

THE FIFTIES

Elizabeth David, poet in a le Creuset casserole

As Britain endured the blight of postwar rationing, an almond-eyed woman seized her pen in revolt at the greasy horrors of bread and gristle rissoles and corned beef toad-in-the-hole complacently served up at a Ross-on-Wye hotel. She "started to work out an agonised craving for the sun ... Even to write words like apricot, olives and butter, rice and lemons, oil and almonds, produced assuagement." After a war spent drifting through Provence, Greece and Egypt with a seriously disreputable lover, the rebellious child of the sort of family that never went near a kitchen had finally found her cause

Elizabeth David's first book. Mediterranean Food, was published in 1950, rapidly followed by recipes from the Italian and French countryside and her masterly French Provincial Cooking. She flavoured the whole decade, restoring hedonism to war-deprived British nalates and teaching the newly (and in most cases blessedly). cookless middle classes that

THE CENTURY garlic had more uses than scaring off vampires. And just as continental travel was again becoming possible, her recipes and the mini-essays and quotations accompanying them evoked the sensuous aromas of wild fennel, daube and Greek Skordalia, of lemon groves and exotic fish markets with their "great heaps of shiny fish, silver, vermilion, or tiger-striped, and those long needle fish whose bones so

mysteriously turn out to be green". Her writing is literary art in a saucepan, betraying the influence of friends ranging from Norman Douglas, Lawrence Durrell and Cyril Connolly to Evelyn Waugh, who named her Italian Food his 1954 Book of the Year. But they were solidly practical,

too, assuming little or no knowledge. That is not surprising. "ED" had started out in digs as an unbudding actress not even knowing how to make a cup of tea (her room-mate, the actress Joan Hickson, showed her). So she could see that a novice, instructed by the redoubtable Mrs Beeton to skin a rabbit while warm, would be quite likely to shove it in the oven to warm up, with disastrous results. Her recipes were also often hearteningly cheap, found uses for everything from soft roes to sheep's

lungs and, in the early editions, were full of hints about how to get round the lack of the proper ingredients. She began without great expec-

tations, observing drily that rationing and bad restaurants "have led Englishwomen to take a far greater interest in food than was formerly considered polite". Good food, she maintained, required "a devoted, a determined spirit, but not it is to be hoped, one of martyrdom". Some of her best recipes, such as boeuf flambé à l'Avignonnaise,

take only nine lines and can be made in three minutes. And because they could be read with pleasure by non-cooks, they started to lure men, too, into stirring sauces. One of them-was the young Terence Conran.

But the larger ambition is there from the start, the "hope to give some idea of the lovely cookery of those regions to people who do not already know them, and to stir the memories of those who have ... and who would like sometimes to bring a flavour of those blessed lands of sun and sea and olive trees into their English kitchens". Not all her dishes were for every day - but after the monotony of Spam and dried egg, who wanted them to be?

STUMPING THE PUNDITS

PEOPLE OF

An unexpected victory from an underestimated England team

and Adelaide, England's cricketers entered the fourth Ashes Test at the Melbourne. Cricket Ground as lambs to the slaughter. The team had been flattened on all fronts, pummelled in the press and castigated on had been informed in no uncertain terms that the time had come for him to considerhanging up his boots, bat, pads and numerous other articles of equipment. As Australia breezed their way towards the disturbingly modest target of 175 runs and a 3-0 lead, the knives were once again sharpened. "It's nearly over" the London Evening Standard (first edition) screamed, "Australia are so close to series victory."

That newspaper is now stuck with the sporting equivalent of the Chicago Tribune's disastrous declaration of 50 years ago, "Dewey beats Truman". A cricket match, it appears, is not over until the Kent fast bowler sings or takes six swift wickets as an alternative. Dean Headley had, until yesterday, enjoyed a no more inspiring Australian tour than the rest of his team-mates. All of that was forgotten when, in a burst of utter brilliance, he took four wickets for four runs in 13 balls and suddenly altered the direction of an innings. Another blitz in which three

After being saved by a storm in Brisbane Wickets disappeared for one run, the last and comprehensively outclassed in Perth two taken by Darren Gough, delivered an and Adelaide, England's cricketers entered improbable but enthralling triumph.

The pundit class will, of course, quickly recover. The secret of England's comeback was, it will be said. Stewart's decision to abandon the role of wicketkeeper, thus camera. Even the redoubtable Alec Stewart allowing him to score a century much as the experts had anticipated. Headley's efforts, others will assert, were an event waiting for their moment. The most cynical joked-yesterday that the entire Australian squad had acquired an enthusiasm for match-fixing. Others noted that England only seize their moment when the outcome of a series has already been determined.

None of this will matter one tota to the players and management. Having been dismissed so often as "headless chickens", they will savour the moment that they turned the tables on their tormentors, and the Australians. They will wallow in their transformation from no-hopers to national heroes. The fifth Test in Sydney might prove to be another crushing disappointment. This newspaper, as many others, may continue to ruminate in melancholy terms about the state of English cricket. For the moment it should be enough to congratulate the team on an extraordinary win and thank them for providing a little piece of August in late December.

good to be true.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London EI 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Conservation of a Sheffield 'eyesore'

From the Director of the Civic Trust

Sir. Your reports (December 23) on the listing of postwar buildings draw attention to the dangers of adopting what I can only call an art historian's approach to architectural conserva-tion. Buildings are viewed by some as representatives of abstract styles and historic form, rather than as living structures designed by and for the use

In this small country, with immense pressures on housing stock and demand for new dwellings, we must ensure that we preserve only the best of our built heritage and that means, in addition to aesthetic quality, good, durable and adaptable designs. We simply do not have the space to preserve buildings as interesting curiosities, irrespective of their

The Park Hill flats in Sheffield which you illustrated may be an intellectually interesting demonstration of a construction technique and genre, but they are also, arguably, an example of a monumental social and economic failure. Listing means they will be "preserved" indefinitely, along with their faulty designs and other weaknesses.

Historical exactitude does not come without a cost, and that could mean there is less money and space for other pressing priorities to achieve the wider and deeper urban renewal and renaissance we need so desperately.

Yours faithfully, MIKE GWILLIAM. Director, Civic Trust, 17 Carlton House Terrace. London SWIY 5AW. December 23.

From Mr T. Wilson

Sir, As a schoolboy I observed the building of the Park Hill flats through the window of my schoolroom in the centre of Sheffield. With astonishment I watched as substantial Victorian stone-built terraces were razed and replaced by another concrete Le Corbusier lookalike.

Architectural importance cannot be judged in isolation; it must also take into account the social consequences of its existence. On this premise alone, during the past 40 years Park Hill has been a social disaster. I agree with the residents: "Bulldoze it!"

Yours faithfully. TERENCE WILSON, 8 Clarkesmead. Maldon Road, Tiptree, December 23

From Mr Jason Berry

Sir, Countries across the world have made mistakes; some have apologised for them, most ignore them, but I've never heard of countries congratulating themselves for disasters such as Park Hill

Yours sincerely, J. BERRY, 44 Ramshaw Drive, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6UB. Décember 23.

From Mr Michael Moore

Sir, Working on only the engineering design of Park Hill is one of the things I am most ashamed of doing. Now my shame is to be preserved for posterity. I must bear my burden for the

public good because the voters of Sheffield must not be allowed to run away with the idea that it belongs to Sheffield belongs to the civil ser-

vants, architects, engineers and politicians who do not tell the voters of the subsidies paid by the Government for building wasteful and unwanted multistorey flats.

Yours etc, MICHAEL MOORE, 58 The Ridge, Marple, Stockport SK6 7ER. 113504.726@compuserve.com December 23.

Kerala's elephants

From Mr Ian Redmond

Sir, Your article highlighting Kerala's last Great Elephant March (Travel, December 17) did not mention why it

is to be the last.

The event is being cancelled because of local and international criticism of the cruel treatment endured by the "iOI decorated and bejewelled elephants" to provide a photo opportunity for tourists.

The Kerala Tourist Board is to be congratulated for listening to its critics and cancelling the march, which was a show put on for tourists and not a traditional lestival.

The board is now going to offer "an exciting array of village fairs and festivals" in 2000, to show visitors the true warmth of Kerala culture, and not a shameful circus of 101 chained elephants suffering in a hot sports stadium without shade or water.

Ele-friendly Times readers heading for Kerala next month should avoid the last march and visit elephants in Periyar nature reserve for a truly wild start to the new year.

Yours faithfully, IAN REDMOND (Wildlife consultant) Born Free Foundation, 3 Grove House, Foundry Lane, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 5PL. ele@globalnet.co.uk

Honour satisfied or mortgaged?

to the House?

JOE HAINES

December 29.

scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,

December 27.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID AXSON,

From Mr Cyril Ellis

ance".

Yours etc,

C. ELLIS.

December 28.

Yours faithfully.

22 Horsted Way,

December 27.

HILARY W. BEAN,

CHRIS WATTON.

Yours faithfully,

an immediate confession and apology

(Chief Press Secretary to the

Prime Minister, 1974-76),

South Frith, London Road,

Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 0UQ.

From Mr Christopher J. Watton

Sir, It has been my understanding

that one who behaved honourably did

nothing which would not bear public

scrutiny. The Peter Mandelson affair

seems to have given us a new

definition of honour. Although he has

behaved badly — by my standards dishonourably — he is apparently to be considered honourable because he

resigned when his dishonourable

behaviour was exposed to public

Penpont, Dumfriesshire DG3 4NN.

Sir, Members of Parliament, minis-

ters or otherwise, do not resign

because of their integrity. They do so

because they have been found out.

Milton Avenue, Gerrards Cross,

Sir, You report today, apropos of Charlie Whelan, that "Brown's man

faces a long climb back to accept-

Surely any "pure" head of a political party would be pleased to

have improper dealings revealed. Why then threaten the alleged whistle-

blower? Gratitude should be appropri-

Sir, I'm beginning to suspect that

there is not a single adult in the country pure enough to be an MP.

What's to be done? Why, elect

Flat 6, 46 Village Road, Enfield, Middlesex ENI 2EF.

From Mrs Hilary W. Bean

journalists instead, of course.

Rochester, Kent MEl 2XY.

Buckinghamshire SL9 8QW. December 29.

How very confusing.

Dalgonar, Scaur Water,

chris.watton@lineone.net

From Mr David Axson

From Mr R. K. D. Shah

Sir, With all due respect to Jonathan Goldberg, QC (letter, December 24), it is too harsh a judgment to characterise as "a sham" the private arrangement between Geoffrey Robinson and Peter Mandelson. While admittedly there are other, wider, issues of political morality involved here, as any solicitor engaged in conveyancing practice will vouch, situations of this kind are not uncommon.

in most such cases the provider of finance is closely related to the recipient, usually but not necessarily a parent or grandparent. Unless there an outright gift of the money advanced (not recommended by the tax advisers of the parties) the transaction is generally along the lines set out in the published letter (December 23) to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, backed perhaps by a signed but unregistered charge over the property purchased (which would serve as an equitable mortgage) or a declaration of trust, off the title deeds. Either of these would be enforceable, or capable of being crystallised, at the discretion of the loan creditor.

If there was a family connection between Mr Robinson and Mr Mandelson, then what happened in their case would hardly have warranted a comment and certainly not an in-Why should friendship be treated any less favourably than family as the basis for one person to help another?

Yours truly, RAMNIK SHAH, As from: Preuveneers & Co (Solicitors), 113 London Road. Mitcham, Surrey CR4 21A. rkd@clara.co.uk December 29.

From Mr Joe Haines

Sir. In January 1976, at the end of a socialist leaders' conference at Elsinore, the Dutch Prime Minister, Joop den Uyl, asked the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, for a lift back to London in our plane. Wilson willingly agreed.

Should Wilson have subsequently been arraigned by the Opposition or by a parliamentary committee for corruptly seizing an opportunity to bribe a fellow European Prime Minister in return for future, unspecific, favours? Should he have been condemned for spending taxpayers' mon-ey on behalf of an influential foreigner? More to the point, should the charged by his Parliament for receiving an undeclared benefit and consequently hounded from office?

Or have we become ridiculous in supposing that politicians can be so easily bribed by trifling favours that they must automatically be guilty of improper conduct unless they make

Sir, As one of the Balliol protesters, I

agree with John Keegan (letter, December 12) that our universities

need better funding if they are to maintain their teaching excellence.

be free. The largest benefit of handing

whole, and it is right that the largest

share of higher education is funded by general taxation. But students also

benefit - eventually - from the extra

earning power of a degree, and it is

reasonable that they should also

Our quarrel is not with the

principle of payment for tuition and

maintenance, but the timing of that

payment. The Government has intro-

duced a means-tested tuition fee of

£1,000 a year, and replaced main-

tenance grants of around £4,000 a

year with student loans. We believe,

strongly, that the prospect of leaving university with a debt of £12,000 will

be a major deterrent to school-leavers

from less affluent families, even with

government promises that repayment of this debt will be contingent on their subsequent earnings. What will it mean, for example, for their ability to

get a mortgage or a loan to set up a business?

The better way is for a graduate tax, levied on students for say 15-25 years

contribute.

Ideally university education should

Balliol protest

From Ms Kate Atkinson

after they graduate, at rates of 1.5-2.5 per cent of earnings, with the proceeds flowing directly through the Treasury back into university fund-

This avoids the deterrent effect of student debt; contributions will be out of our own income, not out of our

parents'. Yours faithfully. KATE ATKINSON,

Balliol College, Oxford OXI 3BJ. katherine.atkinson@balliol.ox.ac.uk

From Mr Peter Tron

Sir, In his letter about the "Balliol protesters" (December 21) Professor Sir Graham Hills talks of their "privileged position". I should have thought that in most civilised societies education would be regarded not as a "privilege" but as a right, and the obligation upon one generation to educate the next as absolute and not finan-

cially negotiable. It is a sad comment on our society that the struggle to defend this principle has had to be taken up, not by the educational establishment or politicians, but by individual students facing the full weight of institutional intimidation.

Yours sincerely, PETER TRON, 130 The Street, Kirtling, Suffolk CB8 9PD. December 22.

Time warp?

From Mr Edward A. Russell

Sir. Surely it is not correct to refer to the years in the new millennium as two thousand and odd, as seems to be the current trend?

Is not the correct phrase twenty and odd, or am I to understand that the Battle of Hastings was in one thousand and sixty-six, the war ended in one thousand, nine hundred and forty-five, or indeed that I am writing this letter in one thousand, nine hundred and ninety-eight?

Yours faithfully, E. A. RUSSELL 26 Cauldwell Place, South Shields, NE34 OSA. December 29,

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - 0171-782 5046. e-mail 10: letters@the-times.co.uk

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The 51st state

From Dr Philip F. Roberts

Sir, Now that Puerto Rico has voted against being America's 51st state (report, December 15) why not give the British people a chance? Consider the advantages. We would

ioin the most powerful country, one of English-speaking peoples with a modern, vibrant democracy providing superb defence arrangements. Lying as we do at the front door of

Europe we would be the recipients of massive industrial development by the US to promote (our) American goods in Europe. We would abolish the House of

Lords at a stroke and have relative independence as a self-governing state with low taxes. Distance would not be a problem as

we are closer to Washington than is

Yours faithfully, PHILIP F. ROBERTS, 123 Newmarket Road. Norwich NR4 65Z.

December 22

Regional galleries suffer in silence

From Dr Jeffrey Sherwin

Sir. No one can argue with the laudable intentions of the Culture Secretary. Chris Smith, to do away with charges for gallery entrance (report, "Smith wants galleries to be free for all by 2001". December 15) and his setting aside of £30 million to effect these changes. But what help is being offered to those galleries that never charged in the first place? Nothing.

I am referring to the regional galleries, which are local-authority funded and which have shouldered their responsibilities to their local communities without a whimper, despite appalling lack of resources.

The lifeblood of any art gallery is its ability to put on exhibitions, yet because local authorities have compet-ing needs, the funds available to regional art galleries are derisory. For example, Leeds City Art Gallery, with an immediate catchment area of half a million people, has an annual exhibition budget of less than £12,000.

Some regional galleries have more funds, some less. Tables of these fig-ures are never published. The Government is eager to publish league tables for schools, so why not publish a league table of gallery exhibition budgets, including the nationals? Then it would be possible to have a proper debate. Certainly it would help to put the competing needs of galleries into

perspective. You report the Director of the Nat-ural History Museum as saying he thought it unlikely that the subsidy of £30 million would be sufficient to cover the losses of those galleries which would have to scrap entry charges. Yet if just the interest alone on that money were handed out on a per capita basis to the regional galleries for exhibitions, the effect would

be both immediate and dramatic. Access for all - yes, but access to what? Why not keep the charges and let those of us who live in the regions benefit?

Yours sincerely, JEFFREY SHERWIN (Chairman, Yorkshire Arts Association, 1982-83), Stonecroft House, Sandmoor Lane, Leeds LS17 7EA. December 23.

Medical matters

From Mrs Peggy Edwards

Sir. Does the medical profession bless or curse Or Stuttaford?

We all have varying degrees of hypochondria and one can imagine the doctor in his surgery thinking: "Here comes Mr/Mrs Patient. Been reading again." On the other hand, I am sure lives have been saved and illnesses arrested in time by people going to the doctor after reading the

We are probably all going to take Dr Stuttaford's advice regarding red wine at this time of the year, but what about Delia's pastry made with lard and butter, and custard made with a pint of double cream?

Good health, Dr Stuttaford, keep up the good work.

Yours faithfully, PEGGY EDWARDS. Paddock End. Ditchling, Sussex BN6 8UL. December 23.

The strain of the train

From Mr M. R. K. Holden

Sir. Some years ago, British Rail promoted their services with the slogan "Let the train take the strain". In light of the appalling conditions many customers now endure, can we not find a more apt slogan for 1999? Yours faithfully,

M. R. K. HOLDEN, 99 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CBI 6JT. December 28.

lise Noach

From Mr B. C. Peers

Sir. Your obituary notice of Ilse Noach, the Austrian-born psychoanalyst (December 18), states: When war was declared, lise was employed by the Home Office organising the evacuation of children from London.

As she recounted it to me, the job was a little more dramatic than that On the outbreak of war she was dispatched to the Isle of Man as an enemy alien, but later reprieved because of a shortage of psychiatrists available to deal with the emotional problems of evacuees.

Yours faithfully. B. C. PEERS, 108 Coleherne Court. Old Brompton Road, SW5 0ED. December 18.

Naval security

From Mr Arthur Farrand Radley

Sir, In these troublous times it surely behoves the Royal Navy to watch its security even more closely now that your obituary notice of Admiral Sir Richard Thomas (December 18) has revealed that he was "appointed KGB".

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR FARRAND RADLEY. 157 Holland Park Avenue, Wil 4UX.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

December 29: The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded The Lady Elton as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

Birthdays today Mr A.M. Allen, former chair-

man, UKAEA, 74; Mr Gordon Banks, footballer, 61; Professor Sir Roy Calne, FRS, surgeon, 68; Mr Geraint Talfan Davies, Controller, BBC Wales, 55; Mr Bo Diddley, guitarist and singer, 70; General Sir David Fraser, 78; the Hon Sir Archibald Hamilton, MP. 57: Sir John Houghton. FRS, former chief executive, Meteorological Office, 67; Lord Howick of Glendale, 61; Professor Dame Rosalinde Hurley, microbiologist, 69; Mr Timothy Mo. writer, 48; the Right Rev Peter Nott. Bishop of Norwich, 65: Lady Oppenheimer, theologian, 72; Mrs Gwen Randall, Head, Framlingham College, 48: Pro-fessor Michael Redhead, FBA, former Vice-President, Wolfson College, Cambridge, 69; Sir Albert Robinson, company director, 83; Professor A.H.R. Rowe, former Dean of Dental Studies, United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals. 73; Professor Robert Shackleton, FRS, geologist, 89; the Duke of Somerset, 46; Sir David Willcocks, former Director, Royal College of Music, 79: Mr Clifford Williams, theatrical

University news Cambridge

director, 72

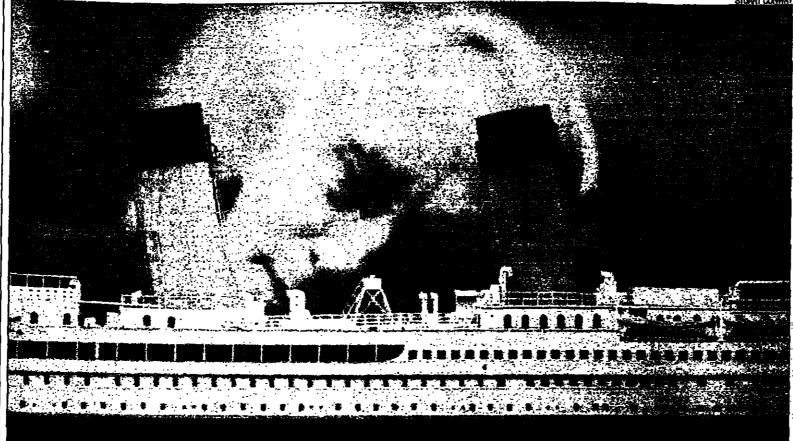
King's College Elected into Professorial Fellowships from October 1, 1998: C.M. Bate, FRS, Fellow of the college; C. Humphrey, FBA, Fellow of the college: E.B. Keverne, FRS, Fellow of the

Elected into a Professorial Fellowship from November

J.B. Young, PhD. Fellow of the college.

Elected into a Non-stipendiary Fellowship for four years from Andrea Hilary Brand, BA

(Oxon), PhD.



This intricate model of the *Titanic*, made by Fine Art Models of America, is based on the original plans of the liner's builders, Harland and Wolff of Belfast, and is the only one authorised by them. It is on show at the International Model Show at Olympia, West London, until January 3, and is expected to sell for up to £100,000 at a Christie's auction on April 15, the anniversary of the ship's sinking on her maiden voyage in 1912

Church news

tiary Canon. Chelmsford Ca-

The Rev Brendan Clover.

Priest-in-Charge, St Pancras w

St James and Christ Church

and St Pancras Holy Cross w

St Jude and St Peter (London):

to be Residentiary Canon of

The Rev Stephen Cook, NSM

Curate, Forest Hill (Honor

Oak Park) St Augustine (Southwark): to be Vicar, Eltham St Barnabas (same

The Rev Valerie Cory, Chap-

lain, Birmingham Cathedral

(Birmingham): to be Curate (to

be known as Associate Vicar),

Surbiton St Andrew and St

The Rev Ivy Crawford, Vicar,

Blackmore St Laurence and

Stondon Massey (Chelms-

ford): to be also Non-Residen-

tiary Canon, Chelmsford Ca-

The Rev Leslie Drake, with

permission to officiate (Lon-

don): to be Team Vicar, Wim-

bledon with special responsi-

BARWELL - John Richard,
Captain Army retired and
agriculturalist of Cransley,
Northamptonshira. Died
December 34th 1998.
Beloved hushand of the
late Beryl Bartwell and
Richard. Funeral will be
held on Monday Jannary
4th 1999 at 1.30pm at St
Andrews Church, Cransley
to be followed by private
family cremation. Family
flowers only. Donations if
desired will be shared
between the Salvation
Army and the British Red
Cross (local branches), c/o
Jack Warwick,
Independent Family
Funeral Director, Wallis
Road, Kettering, 01536
485635.

bility for St Matthew (South-

thedral (same diocese).

Mark (Southwark).

diocese).

Bristol Cathedral (Bristol).

thedral (same diocese).

Appointments Next Suffragan Bishop of Repton

The Ven David Hawtin, Archdeacon of Newark (Southwell): has been appointed Suffragan Bishop of Repton (Derby) in succession to the Right Rev Francis Richmond.

The Rev Ron Baker, Priest-in-Charge, Ewhurst, and Bodiam (Chichester): to be Rector. same heneliœs.

The Rev John Barnes, Rector. Armthorpe St Leonard and St Mary (Sheffield): to be Team Rector, Maltby (same diocese). The Rev Bill Bazely. Chaplain, Lambeth Health Care (NHS) Trust (Southwark): has been appointed Chaplain, Guys and St Thomas Hospital Trust (same diocese).

The Rev Janet Bevan, NSM. Bishop's Cleeve (Gloucester): to be Assistant Curate, same

benefice. The Rev Christopher Bishop, Priest-in-Charge, Manuden w Berden, Rural Dean of Newport and Stansted, and Chap-lain, Stansted Airport (Chelmsford): to be also Non-ResidenAnniversaries

BIRTHS: Rudyard Kipling, poet and novelist, Nobel laure ate 1907. Bombay. 1865; Stephen Leacock, humorous writer and economist. Swanmore, Hampshire, 1869; Sir Carol Reed, film director, Putney, 1906.

DEATHS: Robert Boyle, chemist and physicist. London, 1691: Sir William White Baker. explorer in Africa. Newton Abbot, Devon, 1893; Amelia Bloomer, campaigner for women's rights. 1894; Rufus Isaacs, 1st Marquess of Read-ing, Lord Chief Justice 1913-21, Viceroy of India 1921-26, London, 1935: Romain Rolland novelist and biographer, Nobel laureate 1915, Vezelay, France, 1944; Alfred North Whitehead, philosopher and mathematician. Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1947; Trygve Lie, first Secretary-General of the UN 1946-52, Geilo, Nor-

way, 1968. Transvaal became a republic with Paul Kruger as the first President, 1880.

A petition addressed to Queen Victoria, signed by more than a million women appealing for public houses to be closed on Sundays, was handed to the Home Secretary, 1887.

Latest wills

The Right Hon Sir Michael Manu, a Lord Justice of Appeal since 1988, of Purley, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,191,240 net.

Lady Pryke, of Maldon, Es-sex, left estate valued at £251,976 net.

Jack Wheeler Barrett Chair-man of the Cole Group 1979-86, of Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,273,413 net. Brenda Winifred Brook, of Alderwasley, Belper, Derbyshire, left estate valued at £1.713.161 net.

Anthony Edward Brook, of Warlingham, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,070,808 net. Williams Jones Childerstone, of Lymington, Hampshire, left estate valued at £823,426 net. David James Draper, of Richmond, London, left estate valued at £1,335.705 net.

He left £1,000 to the National Trust; £500 each to RNLI. Old l'iffian Cricket Club, Old Tiffian Football Club and the Youth Hostels Association. l'imothy Christian Fletcher, of London, left estate valued at £937,222 net.

David Middleton Lindsley, solicitor, of Fremington, Richmond, North Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,625,545 net. John Bernard Rogers, retired solicitor, of Newport, South Wales, left estate valued at £1,216,584 net.

He left £10,000 to St Woolo's Cathedral, Newport. Arthur Richard John Sheppard, of Sidcup, Kent, left estate valued at £1,290,390 net. Harold James Marriott Smith, of Grimsby, left estate valued at £1,367,573 net.

He left £1,000 each to the RNLI and NSPCC. Babette Esther Stern, of Moreton Pinkney, Daventry, North-amptonshire, left estate valued at £1,050,795 net. She left £1,000 each to the

Stroke Association, Liberty, the Weizmann Institute, and Moreton Pinkney Village Hall Committee. David Roger Tempest Walker, company director, of Yea-

don, Leeds, left estate valued at £1,186, 417 net. Thomas Williams, of Widnes, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,507,702 net.

Forthcoming marriages

and Miss A.S. Preston

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs John Andrew, of Alderley Edge. Cheshire, and Antonia, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew

Mr J. Borradaile and Miss C.R. Cox

The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs R.G. Borradaile, of Radlet House, Spaxion, Somerset, and Camilla Rosemary, elder daughter of the late Brigadier Charles Cox and of Mrs Charles Cox. of Broadwell House, Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

Mr M.P. Forde and Miss K.L. Mullucks

and wiss L. Mulliscos
The engagement is announced
between Matthew, son of Mrs
Charles Brittain, of The Old
Rectory, Little Thurlow, Suffolk, and the late Mr Patrick Forde, and Karrina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Mullucks, of Wicken Bonhunt, Essex.

Mr C.B. Harvie and Mics J. A. Brown

The engagement is announced between Christopher Braidwood Harvie, of Hazyview, South Africa, elder son of Mrs John Bishop, of Russell's Water, Oxfordshire, and the late Mr Jeremy Harvie, of Seale, Surrey, and Laura Anne. daughter of Mr Thomas Brown, of Cape Town, South Africa, and Mrs Carol Brown, of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Mr N. Humberston

and Miss L. Gentle The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs H.G. Humberston, of Dereham, Norfolk, and Lucy, daughter of the late Mr Rupert Gende and of Mrs Rupert Gentle of Lilbourne Wiltshire.

Mr S. Kerr and Miss S.L. Downbare

The engagement is announced between Stuart, only son of Mr Jack Kerr, of Clacton on Sea, and eldest son of Mrs Lindsey Mitchell, of Verwood, Hampshire, and Sarah Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Downliam, of Childe Okeford, Dorset.

Mr N.W. Kirton

and Miss 2.J. Bullen
The engagement is announced between Neil, son of Mr and Mrs William Kirton, of Bassett Southampton, and Zoe, daughte of Mr John Bullen, of Bhindell-sands, Crosby, and Mrs Prudence Shenton, of Birkdale, Sobthport.

Mr A.R.M. Proctor and Miss L.C. Powell-Brett

The engagement is announced between Adrian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Proctor, of Epsom Downs, Surrey, and Lucinda, youngest daughter of Dr Christopher Powell-Brett and Mrs Lorna Powell-Brett both of London.

Mr M.R.K. Booth and Ms S. Walsh The engagement is announced between Martin Booth, of Caterham, Surrey, and Suzanne Walsh, of

South Godstone, Surrey. Mr R.H. McMeeking

and Miss R.F. McGregor The engagement is announced between Robert Henry, son of Mr and Mrs Neil McMeeking, of Four Elms, Kent, and Rachel Frances. elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Murray McGregor, of Minster-in-

Thanet, Kent. Mr E.J.N. Russell

and Miss A.L.F. Copeman The engagement is announced between Edward, elder son of the Venerable Norman and Mrs Russell, of Newbury, Berkshire. and Anastasia Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Copeman, of Saham Toney, Norfolk.

Mr S.A. Vernon-flarcourt and Miss J.J. Faber The engagement is announced between Simon Anthony, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.W. Vernon-Harcourt, of Debden Green, Saffron Walden, Essex, and Jessica Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs W.E. Faber, of Newport,

Mr J.G. Villar

and Miss A.C. Fenn The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Villar, of Hopesay. Shropshire, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Fenn, of Sutton St Nicholas,

Mr J.H. Wallis and Miss K. Berridge

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Simon Wallis, of Easton, Suffolk, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr David Berridge, of Soham. Cambridgeshire, and Mrs Elizabeth Berridge, of Oundle, Northamptonshire.

Marriages Mr R.T.A. Hardie

and Miss D. Peleanu Mr and Mrs Donald Hardie, of Chesterhill, Humbie, East Lothian, announce the marriage of their son, Robin, to Daniela Peleanu, of Bucharest, Romania, on December 17, in London. Captain M.A. LeMasurier

and Miss K.A. Davies
The marriage took place on
December 19, at Shippon, Oxon, of Captain Mark LeMasurier, son of Mr John LeMasurier and Mrs Mariene LeMasurier, of Devon, to Miss Katherine Davies, younger Davies, of Surrey. Padre Roy Hemmings, CF, officiated. Tom and Robert Collins, nepb-

ws of the bride, were pageboys. Mr Michael Keig was best man. A reception was held at the Officers Mess, Dalton Barracks. Abingdon, and the honeymoon is oeing spent in Sri Lanka.

200

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE; 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

To see me, said Jesus, is to see him who sent me. I have come into the world ness. John 12 : 45,46

BIRTHS

BROCKLEBANK - Oz 27th December 1998, in Auckland, New Zealand, to Meredith (née Hale) and Nicholas, a daughter, Amber Louise

to Patricis (née Lowe) and Thomas, twins, Archie and James, brothers for Grace. DORIA D'ANGRI - On December 22nd at The

BURY - On December 23rd

Portland Hospital to Benedetta and Olivier, a son Marcantonio, our first child ELIS - On 20th December 1998 at The Leicester General Hospital to Katy taée Sykes) and Edward, a daughter, Amelia Rose.

FOLKES - On December 25th 1998, to Julia tuée Muddeman) an Simon, a daughter, Imogen Rose, a sister for Katle and FRASER - To Lucy (sée

Roper-Curzon) wite of Benjamin Fraser of North Lodge, Pylewell Park. Lymington Hants on 18th December a daughter, Phoebe Montagu, 9ths Ilozz, 8 sister for Thomas, Eliza, William and Hugh. GATE - On December 24th at The Portland Hospital to Sera (160 Thomas) and Christopher, a son, Frederick James George, GIBSON - On 22nd December

1998 to Mary (née Morgan) and Charles a daughter, GRAY - On Christmas morning, at home in Melton Mowbray, to Jane ince Terry) and Strart a son Alexander Englerick

HADDON - on 22nd December at Chell Westminster Hosp Westminster Hospital, a daughter, Lare Diana Anne, to Christopher and Catherine (neé Robson). KAWASE - On December 25th at The Portland Hospital to Chrissi (née Theodorakakos) and

Tatsuya, a son, Renzo-Andrea. KENDALL - See Watson. KILSBY - On 28th December to Helen (née Magnusson) and Chris Kilsby, a daughter, Anna Evelyn Helen.

LAGERBERG - On December LAGERSERS - On December
26th at The Portland
Hospital to Park and Eric,
a daughter, Ivy Katherine,
a big sister for Grota
Claire.

LATIF - On December 3rd at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Federics (née Del Nobolo) and Nadir, a daughter, Margherits Vittoria, sister to Alessandro Guido.

BIRTHS MATTHEWS - On November 2nd 1998, to Jucke (tofa Sharp) and Stephen, a wanterful daughter Amanda Elizabeth, a sister for Charles.

PENDERED - On 28th

PERSON - On December 19th at The Portland Hospital to Nathalle (née Menkes) and Danisi, a daughter, Lucie Hannah, a sister for Sarah.

RAIKES - On 21st December 1998 to Emma (née Budgen) and Jason, a son, Henry Pendragon, a brother for Tom and

ROBERTS - On 20th December to Caroline and Steven, another wonderful brother to Jim, Owen and Huw.

SMILG - On December 25th at The Portland Hospital to Ruth (née Benjamin) and Jeremy, a daughter, Isabel Deborah, a slater for

TAYLOR - On December 19th at The Portland Hospital to Susan and Nell, a daughter, Isobel, a sister

VERHAAREN - On December 17th to Catherine (née Johnson) and Lambert, a daughter, Émily Sophie.

WATSON - On 22nd December to Erica (née Kendall) and Timothy, a daughter, Raffaella Constance Harriet.

22nd at The Portland Hospital to Rachel (née Steinhouse) and Robert, a wonderful son, Charlie

PARSLOW - On Christmas Eve 1998 to Tania (née Undery) and Roger, a son, Benjamin Matthew.

November to Nicola (née Dickens) and James, a daughter Megan Alexander, a beautiful sister for Harry.

RUSSELL - On Christmes Day 1993 to Richard and Victoria (née Taylor) a daughter, Olivia Jane. Maldenhower W. Sussex.

SCOTT - On December 5th 1998, to Elisabeth (née Witt) and Jonathan, a daughter Anna Elizabeth.

WHITEREAD - On Christmas Eve at The Portland Hospital to Serena and Henry, a son, Thomas Anthony William, a brother for Edward.

WELIAMS - On December 12th, 1998, in Liverpool to Rachel (née Baskett) and Brüce, a deughter Annabelle, a sister for

DEATHS

ADAR - Peacefully in hospital at Kirkcaldy on 23rd December, 1998. Thomas Fraser Liddiard, devoted husband of the late Mary Gourley and a much loved father.

ALLGOOD - Suddenly on December 34th 1998 Lancelot Guy, of Nunwick Simonburn Lancelot Guy, of Nunwick Simonburn
Northumberland aged 54 years. Beloved husband of Veronica and father of Jame, Alice and Mary.
Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Church, Hestham on Wednesday January 6th at 2.00 pm followed by private burial at Simonburn. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Surgery, Wark, Hexham, NE48
SLS.

31.S.

AMEERSON - On December 24th 1993 peacafully in his aloop, William Albert aged 39. Much inved husband of Rone and father to Patricia and Elizabeth, grandlather to Gideon, Emily, Laura and William. Private Funeral for family and close friends on 30th December 1998. Donations to Alzeimers Disease Society please.

AMEMIACS - On December.

Society please.
ARMITAGE - On December
27th Lyona Armitage, aged
93. pescafully at Amesbury
Abbey, Wiltshire, widow
of Sir Robert Armitage.
Dearly loved mother of
Jeveny and Richard and
dear grandmother and
great grandmother.
Fanceral at 5t Mary and 5t
Melor Church, Amesbury
on January 5th at 2.30mm. Melor Church, Amesbury on January 5th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only, but doustlons if desired to St John Ambulance, 1 Orchard Street, Dorchester, Dorset.

AYLEFF - Roy peacefully at home on December 22nd after a long struggle against cancer. Beloved against cancer. Beloved husband of Margaret and much loved father and grandfather.

AYTOUN - Betty died suddenly on December 23rd 1998 in Boston 23rd 1998 in Boston
Hospital, wife of the late
Wing Commander Ramsay
(Jock) Aytous DFC, will be
sadly missed by daughter
lacqueline, granddaughters Nicolie and
Emms and many family
and triands. Funeral and friends, Funeral

arrangements later.
Enquiries to R H Turner & Son, Puneral Directors, 55/57 North Street, Horneastle, Lines, Tel: 01507 522331. BARY - Honor, Peacefully at Overstone House, Hexham on December 26th aged 82 years. Beloved wife of the late Peter, dear mother of Cillian, Alice and Hugh. A devoted grandmother, Family Service and greating to Service and cremation to take place at Newcastle West Road Crematorium. A Service of Thankagiving at Hexham Abbey on Thursday 7th January 1969

SARTON - Raymond,
Peacefully on 27th
December, 1998 at the
Salishury Hospice aged 75
yeara. Dearly loved
husband of Enid and
father of Philip, Clive and
Alison. Funeral Service at
Salishury Cethedral on 5th
January, 1989 at 11.00 am.
All enquiries C/o I.N.
Newman Ltd., Funeral
Directors, Griffin House,
55 Winchester Street,
Salishury, Wiltz., SP1 1HL
01722 413136.

BATES - Cecily (Cripps, GB) pescafully on 27th December aged 96 years in the devoted care of Wren House RH, much loved and loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Cremation private. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on the 18th Jamsary at 2 pm at the Minster, Warminster. Family flowers dnly, Enquiries to Arthur Mays on 61373 822764.

BATES - School Ayellife
County Durham formerly
of Hemel Hempstead
December 28th pascafully
at home after a brave and
courageous light against
cancer. Mike aged 53
years. Much loved
husband of Liz, loving dad
of Richard and Caroline.
Any emonities to Buyan A
Any emonities to Buyan A Any enquiries to Bryan A Shepherd, Funeral Director Tel: 01325 464199.

BULL - Margaret Annie Mary (our loving Maggle) peacefully on 26th December 1998 in the Pilgrim Hospital, Boston. Much missed by the Bull and Lamyman families. Memorial Service Wednesday 5th Ismuary 1999 at St Mary and All Saints Church South Kyms et 11.30 am. Seints Church South
Kyms at 11.30 am.
Donations to the Church
Bell Appeal may be left at
the church or received by
William C Allenby & Son
Funeral Directors 68 Main
Street, Anwick, Sleaford,
Linca, NG34 95U Tel:
01526 832319.

CAREY - Peter. M. On 27th December, tragically, following a road accident in Sri Lanks, aged 45. Dearly beloved husband of Anitz inte George), loving father of William, Rhisamon, Angharad, Catrin and David and greatly loved son, brother. greatly loved son, brother, son-in-law, uncle and irland. Arrangements to b

announced in due cou announced in due course.
Any correspondence can
be addressed c/o M.J.G.F
Lee Bolton & Lee, 1 The
Sanctuary, Westminster,
London, SW1 P3JT.

DESSAM - Colonel Paul
Hubert Devas M.C. O.B.E.
late of the Green Howards.
Died 24th December aged
39. Grantly loved husband
of Hester and father of
Dominic, Giles, Mark and
Simon and proud
grandisther of thirteen
grandchildren. Service to
be held at St. Helent,
Tarporley at 2.30 pm on
Saturday 2nd lanuary
1998. No flowers, but
donations, if wished, for
St. Thomas a Becket and
St. Helent, Tarporley may
be sent c/o Lightfoot
Funeral Directors, High
Street, Tarporley,
Cheshire. (01829 733808).

DEVLIN - Hugh Brendan
C.B.E. F.R.C.S. on
December 28th 1998.
husband of Ann. Isther of
Tim, Istmen. Peter and
Brendan. Service at
Middlesberough St Mary's.
R.C. Cathedral, Coulby
Newham, Saturday 2nd of
January at 1 pm followed
by private interment.
Family flowers only,
donations if desired to
Butterwick Hospice.
Stockton, TS19 &XN.

BIGLEDOW - Mrs Bridget
Maynard late of 17 The
Ark, Long Street, Devizes
Wiltshire died pescefully
at Mayfield Rest Home,
Nursteed Road, Devizes of
Tuesday 22nd December
1998 in her 85th year.
Cremation at Senington
Crematorium on Tuesday. Cremation at Seinington Crematorium on Tuesday 5th January 1999 at 11 mm. A Service of Thankegiving will be held on Fridey 8th January 1999 at 5t John's Church, Devizes at 2 30 pm. Family Bowers andy. Donations for International Fund for

Donations for International Fund for Animal Wellare. FOSSERRY - Ronald A.C. Retired Assistant Director of MIRA Nuneaton resident died suddenly resident died suddenly
aged 73 years on the 18th
December 1998. Funeral
Service on January 5th at
2.15pm at Cannon Hill
Chapel, Camley
Gresstorium, Coventry.
Enquiries to Co-op
Funeral Service GILHAM -Ronald, aged 72, on 25th December after a short illness. Beloved husband of Mary and much loved father of Frances, Catherine and Alexandra. Peneral

Alexandra, Funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Burton Bradstock Dorset on 5th January at 11.30cm followed by cramanion. Family flowers only, denations if desired to The Leegue of Friends of Dorchester Hospital c/o of Dorchester Hospital c/o A J Wakely & Sons, 91 East Street, Bridport DT6 3LB.

GLENDEVON - Liza.
Suddenly on December 27 in Scotland, beloved mother of Nic, Camilla, Julian and Jousthan.
Private Funeral for family only at Hopetoun, on Saturday January 2nd.
Flowers to Thomas Brown & Sons, Westroes, West Main Street, Broodern, West Lothism, EH32 SRH. A Memorial Service in London to be announced later. HOPE ROBERTSON suddenly, on December 28th, in Cape Town, Mary Hope Robertson (nee Marsh) wife of the late Laurence Hope Robertson, dearly loved Mother of Alastair, Donald, Jane, Gayin and Libby, loving Gran to her twaive Grandchildren, A greatly loved and valued friend.

MOWELLS - Annette Mary (née Kirkup). Suddenly but peacefully at RD&E Hospital, Exster on 26th Doomsbor, adored wife of Vic, beloved mother of Tim and Nick and devoted and Nick and devoted grandmother. Funeral service at St. Bartholomew's, Cadeleigh on Tuesday 5th January at 2 mm (ollosed by on I needy sto James y st 2 pm followed by cremation. No flowers but donations to St. Bartholomew's, Cadeleigh and Dil Museum c/o Mesers. Heilier and Sons. Cullempton (01884 32482).

JOHESON-HAVIES - Anne Elizabeth (née Littledale) aged 86, after a short illness in hospital. Widow of Remneth and much loved mother of Penelope and Archony and grandchildren Crant, Nicholas, Scott and Ross, Cremstrium Service at remease, Scott and Ross, Crematorium Service at The Port Chester Crematorium on Monday 4th Ismuery at 2 15pm. Pumeral Directure M. Coghlan, Westbury Road, Parelson, Hants, PO16

KAUFMAN - Dr Solamen (Salliwan) died on 25th December 1988 at home, aged 90, after a long illness courageously borne. Deeply mourned by his children lonsthan and Laura, his entire (amily Laura, his entire family and numerous friends and colleagues. Funeral private. Memorial Service to be announced later.

7XU. Tel: 01329 282711.

KELLY (Sutton, Dublin, and Formerly Calcutta, India) December 24th 1996 peacefully after a short lilness at Beaumont Hospital Frank, beloved husband of the late Kathleen and much loved father of Deirdre, John and Kitty, Sadly missed by his daughters, son, grandchildren Boin, Lochlinn, Sinessel, Yvonne, Flona and Polly, some-in-law im and Polly, some-in-

Fions and Polly, sons-ininw Isn and Peter,
daughter-in-law Gilli,
sister Moirs, sister-in-law
Maisie, relatives and
friends particularly
Pauline, Helen and Breige.
Funeral took place on
Monday December 28th at
St Fintan's Church,
Sutton. Domnions if
wished to St Francis
Hospice, Raheny, Dublin.
May he rest in peace.
GWGHT -Stephanie, died

Hospice, Raheny, Dublin, May he rest in peace.

KNEGHT - Stephanie, died peacefully on December 29th, at the home of her son Andrew, aged 80. Beloved wife of the late Marcur Knight and mother of Andrew, Timothy and David, Alf enquiries to J&M Humphris, 32 Albert Street, Banbury OX18 SDC.

LARID - Graeme Stuart, beloved husband of the late Shella and dearest father of Alex, died peacefully on December 22. 1988 in Dunniries. Funeral aervice at Carlisle Crematorium at 11.40am on Thursday Jenuary 7. 1899. Family and friends may send flowers if they wish, ar donations to the ENLI c/c William Jardine, Funeral Directors, Tires Crowns Court, Dumfries.

DGI 1HU, A Thanksgiving Service will be held fater in January in West Suspect.

LANESBOROUGH - The Right LAMESSOROUGH - The Right Honourable Denis Anthony Brian Ninth Earl of Lanesborough, peacefully at home. Loving numberd of Julia and 'I father of Denyne. Faneral Service at St. Leonards Church, Swithland, Lelonaresbire. at 2 30 pp. Leicestershire, at 2,30 pm on Tuesday 5th January 1999. No Howers. Donations to British Lung Foundation, 78 Hatton Garden, London ECIN 878.

BJR.
LE HUMAY - Clara, on
December 23rd 1998 aged
95, peacefully. Devoted
mother of the late Peter le
Huray. Funeral Service at
St. Mary Magdalena,
Madingley, Cambridge on
Monday 4th Jaminey at
2.50pm. Plowers of o Harry
Williams & Sons. Tel 01223
- 15480.
LOHOOLE - Major General

- 59400.
LOUDOUN - Major General
Robert (Bob) Beverly, CB.
OBE, peacefully at home
on 28th December. Very
dar husband of Sue and
grandlather. Cremation
private lamily only No
flowers please. Donations.
if wished, to the Mental
Health Foundation.
Thanksgiving Service to
be announced.

MACKAY - Betty (née King).
On 22nd December
suddenly and peacefully
at home. Loved and loving
widow of the late Robert
H Mackay. A lovely person
who always had time for
others. Greatly missed end
loved by all her family.
Funeral on Jenuary 8th st.
2.30pm at 8t Peter's
Church, Tewin and
afterwards. Denations to
British Heart Foundation.

MACKERZE - Major (Retd)
George Mackenzie, Royal
Pioneer Corps died
peacefully on 28th
December 1998 aged 79. A
much loved husband,
father and grandfather
who will be greatly missed.
A funeral will be hald on
Priday 8th Justuary 1999 at
2pus at the Torquey
Crematerium.

MARRIMER - Margaret Mary nás Power (Peg). Suddenly after a brief illness on December 22nd 1998 aged 86 years. Fond and beloved 86 years. Fond and beloved wife, mother and grandmother, Requiem Mass at Church Of Our Lady, Lisson Grove, NW8 on Thursday December 31st at 12.30pm, followed by cremation at Goldens Green Crematorium at 2pm. No flowers by request Denations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research Fund. cj. 0 E.P. Sherry & Sons Funceni Directors, 23 Bell St NW1 583. Tel: 0171 723 042h.

MARKOWS - Annie (Anne), née Twigg, born Sheffleid 1923. Former Post Mistress 1923. Farmer Post Mistress of Clarborough, Notts, latterly of Marker.
Bosworth, died in Baron's Park Nursing Home, Leics on 26th December.
Beloved wife of the late.
Albert Ernest, descrip loved by all her family. Service at Market Bosworth Parkh-Church on Wednesday 6th January at 11.39 a.m. If desired cut flowers or demetions to Cancer Research, to Gillwer's F/D, Church Rd. Barlestons.
Numeaton. Tel: 61453
230386.

MARTIN - Peter Lancelet at home in Wadhurst early on Boxing Day morning. Darry loved husband of Eller and wonderful father to Christian and Peter and devoted grandiather to Cheriotte and little Christian. Former Pregident of the British. Mast Manufacturers President of the British
Mest Manufacturers
Association, Chairman of
W. A. Turner of Tunbridge
Wells and Freeman, of the
City of Loudon.
Thanksgiving service to be
hald in the Church of St.
Alban, Frant, East Super:
at 1.00 p.m. on 6th January.
1999, following private
cremation, Flowers and E.
R. Hickmost & Son, čl.
Grove Hill Road,
Timbridge Wells TNI

McATE - John on 29th
December, pescafully at
Vinghiu Water, aged 94.
Minch loved husband of
Lens, father of Patrick and
Grandfather of Clare.
Funeral strictly private.
No flowers.

MOREL - Margaret Risch on November 11th of Penton Mewsey Andover UK, previously of Saychelles and Kanya, daughter of the late Francis and Winifred Stamp aged 89.

MURRAY - Alice Mary
Lowndes suddenly but
peacafully at The Royal
infirmary Edinburgh on
Wednasday 22rd
December 1998, Mary née
Wright beloved wife of the
late Alastair Murray dear
mother of Caroline, Pipps,
Catriona and Alastair
John, loving Grampy of
Jessie, the late Kim,
Andrew, Flona and James,
Funaral Servica was held
in Edinburgh.

PALMÉR - On Christmas Eve. at home, Andrey Helen.
Wile of John and nother
of Sue, Sarah, Kate and
Michael. Puneral and
woodland burial Hastings woodeing burial Hastings Cametery, The Ridge, Hastings on Thursday January 7th 1989 1.45 p.m. Family flowers only, Further enquiries c/o J Perigos & Son. Beckley, E.Sossex - tel 01797

RAPICHE - Syed Ahmed.
Passed away on Sunday
17th December 1998 in
Ealing General Hospital
aged 94. Begum Rafique,
his sons, daughter,
grandchildren and all his
iamily mourn his
departire. Namez-eiJenaza shall be at 1pm at
Esting Mosque, 4
Eccletton Road and burial
at 2.15pm at Greenford
Park Cametery, Windonii
Lane on Thursday 31st
December. From Allah we
come and to Him we
return in love and peace. return in love and peace.

260316

SOCSON - On Friday
December 18th in Ramsey
Cottage Hospital, Isle of
Man Thomas David PhD,
C Chem, FRSC in his 86th
year, Dearly loved
husband of Dorothy and
much loved by his
stepens, daughters-inlaw and grandchildren. A
distinguished schemfet and
world authority on his
subject, he retired after 30
years service with Lafarya.
The funeral service will
take place at Douglas
Crematorium at 1.15 pm
on Toesday January 5th
1859. Family flowers only
plame, but if so desired,
dountloss in lieu to Bride
Ward, Ramsey Cottage
Hospital: All senguiries to
Corkhill & Callow Lad. 34
West Quay, Ramsey, Isle of
Man, Tal U1824 513114.

SATRA FORTE - Anna. Died pescafully in her aleap on Decasiber 22nd aged 87. Much loved mother of Annamaria and grandmother of Jessica and Alax and beloved sister of Total States. and Alax and beloved sister of Charles. Funeral at St Mary's Church Cadogan Street at 12 o'clock on January 7th. Internent at Hampstead Cametery. All enquiries to J H Kanyon 0171 337 0757.

SKETON - On December
28th, Suzanne (née Rees)
pescafully in hospital aged
23. Dearly loved wile of
Robert Skeiten. Greatly
loved by his nephews and
nince and by her own nince
and all the children.
Funeral Service at Golders
Green Crematorium on
Monday January 4th at
2.30pm: Flowers or if
desired, donations to
Arthritis and Rheumatism
Council for Research to
212 Everabolt Street,
London NW1.

SKELTON - Geoffrey David.
Died peacefully in
Worthing Hospital on
December 18th. Much
loved father of Stephen
and Plers, father-in-law of
Cathy and grandfather to
Nicholas, Jeremy and
Mattie. A Cremation
Service for close relatives
and friends will take place
on January 4th 1939. on January 4th 1999.
Plowers may be sent via H
D Tribe Ltd, Tel: 01278
452169.

Skinner - David Lemicz (late of Latiriek, Falkland, Fife) suddenty but peacefully at Stellen Boech Chinic, Capetown, South Africa on Sanurday, 28th December 1992. David beloved husband of Elspeth and loved father of Jamia, Donald, Judy and Amanda, Memorial Service at 12 noon on, Saturday 9th January 1999 at Falkland Pariah Church, No flowers please.

SPARKS - Barbara.

peacefully on Christmas
morning sged 94, at
Beechkeven, Ealing.

Widow of Colonal Arthur
Wallace-Dunlop and of
Caphain Jack Sparks:
much loved mether of Roy.
Kesth, Lan, Peter and Serz;
grandmother of Sophia.
Fippa, Oliver, Ratte,
Lamas, Philippa, Nicola.
Ben, Alax and Rabecca;
grang grandmother of
Daisy, Caidin, Anna and
Francas, She will be
remembered with
affection by her many
friends in England and
abroad Funeral on
Lansary the 12th at St
Marks, Pendake, Details
from W.S. Bond, Enling,
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 1998

OBITUARIES

GLYN CHARLES

Glyn Charles, Olympic yachtsman, was lost at sea on December 27 aged 33. He was born on September 4, 1965.

lyn Charles, who is presumed dead after being lost on Sunday while competing in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race, was one of a growing band of professional sailors seeking to make an impact on a sport that remains fiercely amateur.

He was born in Wales and educated at Pangborne Nautical College, though he did not take up sailing as a sport until he was 13 - late by the standards of today, when youngsters are encouraged to take it in earnest from the age of five. He was on the periphery of the British youth squad when, in 1982, he took time

off from his A-kevel studies at Peter Symonds Sixth Form College and numed up unannounced at a Finn class dinghy Olympic indicator trial. "He had bought an old wooden Finn dinghy for £200," recalls Rod Carr, the sailing manager for the Royal Yachting Association, which was all he could afford, and he needed help just to get off the heach." Weighing II stone when his competitors were closer to 15, both he and his boat were hopelessly outclassed. But Carr was impressed by his determination, and Charles soon earned the respect of those around him. Charles then persuaded him to try sailing the single-handed Laser, a boat which

was much more suited to his weight
That was all the encouragement
Charles needed, and within a year he and two friends, also with their sights set on the Olympics, were travelling around Europe from one international regatta to the next in a beaten-up yellow Ford Transit van, which became their home and the base for some colourful adventures.

Charles was still penniless and sleeping in his car when he first made a mark on the sailing scene by winning the highly competitive Laser national championship in 1985. Also in that year, his father, who had separated from his mother and was living in Andorra, died after falling from

His father's death and his own victory increased Charles's determination to break into the Olympic league, and within a year he was steering a three-man Soling keel boat with ever-increasing success. This in turn won him the support of Norman Cunningham, a sailing philanthropist, as he mounted his campaign for Ólympic honours. He and his crew were pipped in the final trials by



Glyn Charles helming for Britain (with George Skoudos as his crew) in the Star class at the 1997 Olympic Games

Lawrie Smith, who remained an archrival for the rest of Charles's career.

Charles returned to the fray for the next Olympics and was delighted to win the pre-Olympic regatta at Barcelona in 1990, before Smith crushed his aspirations once more, first by poaching his crew and then by narrowly beating him in the trials for the 1992 Games.

After that disappointment Charles turned his attention to offshore racing, first representing Britain in the 1993 Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup Series, aboard the one-tonner GBE International. Graham Walker, another longstanding patron of British sailing, then took him under his wing, employing Charles as a helmsman on his 50-footer

Indulgence for the World Cup circuit. In 1995, Charles steered Mike Golding's

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after being "bumped" off Indulgence by a rival helmsman, Chris Law.

He retained the support of Graham Walker, who stepped in to fund his third Olympic campaign, this time in a Star class keel boat. After finishing second at the Spa pre-Olympic regatta in Holland and fifth at the Bacardi Cup in Miami (arguably the toughest regatta of the year), Charles, now with George Skoudos as his crew, came up against his old rival Lawrie Smith in the final trials. After a disastrous opening race, Charles and Skoudos went on to win every other heat and so made it, finally, to the Olympics, where they finished 11th.

A highly-strung competitor, Charles had since become a more rounded character as he prepared for the 2000 In 1995, Charles steered Mike Golding's Olympics in Sydney.

Munim 36 Group 4 in the Admiral's Cup, He did not marry.

FRANK WILLIAMSON

Frank Williamson, QPM, former Chief Constable and HM Inspector of Constabulary, 1967-72, died on Christmas Day aged 8L He was born on February 27, 1917.

IT WAS a report in The Times naming three police officers in connection with bribery that sparked the investigation into corruption at Scotland Yard set up by James Callaghan as Home Secretary in 1969. Initially it was expected to last just two months, but it was to go on for years, and grew into the biggest and most damag-ing of all such clean-ups. To lead the inquiry, Calla-

ghan astutely called upon one of the most experienced of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Con-stabulary, Frank Williamson, but he underestimated the longstanding antipathy in the Metropolitan Police towards officers from provincial forces. Although other forces were by then just as well equipped and professional as the Met. London officers arrogantly maintained a sense of superiority. and were loath to have their operations investigated by an outsider. Williamson was believed to be the first non-Met officer ever to investigate the

Sadly, he was not given sufficient powers by Calla-ghan, and found himself ostracised at Scotland Yard, where a culture of mutual protection prevailed. He later claimed that he found "not a rotten apple but a barrel of rotten apples, and that he was obstructed even by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir John Waldron, The officer assigned to him as his deputy in the inquiry, Bill Moody, was himself corrupt, and when Williamson complained about him he was told: "We know he's bent, but he's the best we can do." Later Moody was convicted of taking bribes from a porno-



As an outsider attempting to against the police, and eventuuncover what had gone on, Williamson was obstructed ally 13 officers were jailed and 478 took euphemistic "early systematically. Files were destroyed, papers were stolen from his office, and his phone was tapped. Like Kenneth Starr, he was also subjected to smears by those he was investigating. As a result he

officers in two years. In July 1971 he reported his fears about the lack of co-operation and his inability to advance his inquiry to the new Conservative Home Secretary, Reginald Maudling, but the always laid-back Maudling did not give his full support, and at the end of the year Williamson resigned in

disgust.
The inquiry, however, was carried on by the new Commissioner of the Met, Robert Mark (now Sir Robert), who made it his priority, on his appointment in April 1972, to rid the force of corruption. He swiftly set up the AlO branch investigate complaints

managed to charge only three

retirement".

Mark himself had been brought to Scotland Yard by Roy Jenkins from the Leicester force, having been introduced to the beat by Williamson many years before, and his appointment as head of the Met resulted in a further show of defiance against outsiders, when Peter Brodie, the Old Harrovian Assistant Commis-

sioner, abruptly resigned. Williamson had faith in "the absolute integrity of the great majority of police officers", but was concerned that many were unwilling to investigate their own colleagues. In an interview in 1973, however, he said that he did not believe that an independent inquiry board, not staffed by policemen, could ever deal effectively with police corruption. "Outsiders do not understand police work, and cannot separate

plaints against a policeman who exceeds or falls short of his duty. They have no police experience to draw on,"

Frank Williamson was the son of the Chief Constable of Northampton, where he was educated at Northampton Grammar School before joining the Manchester City Police

After Army service during the war and three years with the Military Police in Europe. he returned to his force, where he became a sergeant in 1953. Five years later he was a detective superintendent, and in 1961 he became Chief Constable of the Cumberland. Westmoreland and Carlisle

In 1965 he investigated the Southend police force, after the suspension of its Chief Constable, who was subsequently jailed. Williamson was awarded the Queen's Police Medal in 1966, and in the following year he switched full-time from police work itself to become an Inspector of Constabulary, with a brief to ensure that crime was tackled

uniformly everywhere.
In 1968 he recommended a strengthening of the regional crime squads, with their emphasis on the investigation of criminals rather than specific crimes.

His appointment to head the inquiry into the Met. from Tintagel House, an office block on the South Bank, should have been the peak of his career, but instead it ended in disappointment and some bitterness.

After his resignation he became head of security for the Co-op, based in Manchester, and then for ICI. A few years ago he assisted the writer Peter Flannery in his reconstruction of the investigation of the Met in the BBC drama Our Friends in the North (1996).

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, whom he married in 1943, and by their daughter.

ERNEST PERRY

Ernest Perry, Labour MP for Battersca South, 1964-79, died on December 28 aged 90. He was born on April 25, 1908.

ERNEST PERRY was a typical Labour MP of his time: He

DEATHS .

Earl, percefully at home on 26th December 1998. Puneral Service to be he

Puneral Service to be held at St. Germans Church, Conwall, 2.30pm on Tuesday 5th Jenuary 1998, followed by cremation at Glynn Valley. Family flowers only, but donations to Mount Edgeombe Hospice, c/o Port Eliot Estata, St. Germans, Saltash, Conwall.

Comwall.

STEVENS - Eric, died pesceleily at home in Suffolk. Much loved father of Verroice and Caroline, grandfather and great grandfather, husband of the late Eleanor. Peneral at Brant Eleigh or Tuesday 5th lanuary at 12.00 noon. Donations if wished to The Cardeners Royal Renevolent Society. C/o W.A. Descon, High Street, Lavenham.

Suppose.
WHITAKER - Maryboth, wife
of James and mother of
David, Shervie and Jack
died pescafully at
Bahworth early on
Christmas Day, Private
family inners! Memorial
Service to be amounted

1.5

: 13

left school. He knew local government at every level. from fighting a hopeless ward in 1931 to becoming mayor of his borough. He was loyal to his leadership in the Commons, but inevitably this led to a falling-out with sections of his local party during Labjoined his union as soon as he our's leftward drive in the late our Colleges. An insurance and in Opposition.

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Perry began his education at Landon County Council secondary schools and completed it at evening classes and with

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2.15pm, Wednesday 30th December 12 2000, Thursday 31st December 12 2000, Thursday 31st December

PUBLICATION DATE DEADLINE

For forther information ple

by 31st December

1970s. Feeling "hounded and man by trade, he spent his war harassed", he decided not to stand for re-election in 1979. India and Burma and was demobilised with the rank of troop sergeant. He was a good NCO in the Army and he was to prove a good NCO in the correspondence courses from Parliamentary Labour Party the National Council of Labassa white both in Government

Always interested in poli tics, Perry was president of the Battersea Labour Party and Trades Council and was Mayor of Battersea, 1955-56. With his record he was a natural choice to become the 1964 Labour candidate in Battersea a Torv-h erat (in contrast with the Labour stronghold of Battersea North where the MP was Douglas Jay), which he won by 1,638 votes and held, despite its gentrification. in every elec-

In the House he never attempted to be a major orator or a high-flyer, but he was essentially reliable, as was evidenced by his appointment as a whip, in various ranks, from 1968 to 1975.

tion until he retired.

But reliability was not the main quality required in the Labour Party at the end of the 1970s. There were complaints about his age - he was 67 at the time - and suggestions that a visit to South Africa (where he met his granddaugh-ter) was ill-timed. But underlying all this was the feeling that he was too far to the Right. He pre-empted deselection by resigning well before the next general election. When this came, the successful Battersea South candidate was Alfred Dubs, certainly to the Left of Perry, but hardly an extreme left-winger, who is now Lord Dubs.

Perry's retirement was briefly clouded by an arrest for shoplifting in a Battersea supermarket, but he was cleared by a magistrates' court. Before becoming an MP he

acted as president of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities and served on the Battersea, Tooting and Putney Hospital Group Management Committee. He was married in 1950 to Edna Joyce Perks-Mankelow, who died two months ago. He

sions. S.W., a few hours after he had returned home from Switzerland, where he had gone

for the sake of his health.

is survived by their son and by two stepsons. MR. R.F. DOHERTY Mr. Reginald Frank Doberty, the former lawn-tennis champion, died early yesterday morning at his residence, 4 Albert Hall-man-

Mr. Doherty was born in London in 1874,

and started young at the game in which he was to make so deep a mark, for at 14 he won the boys singles at Craigside, Llandudno. After leaving Westminster School, which he represented at Association football, he went to Cambridge, where he played lawn tennis for the University in 1895 and 1896. It was in 1897, the year after he went down, that he won the All England Singles Championship for the first time; and between that point and his virtual retirement five years ago he won the Singles Championship four times and the Doubles Championship, with his brother, eight times. The brothers also won the American Doubles Championship for two years, and successfully represented England in the Davis Cup for four years.

These are only a few of the chief distinctions which fell to him; but the mere catalogue of wins would fall to give any impression of the manner in which Mr. Doberty — and not merely for the decade or so for which his

AIR VICE-MARSHAL G. R. MAGILL

complaints about a man doing

his legitimate duty from com-

Air Vice-Marshal G. R. ("Digger") Magill, CB, CBE, DFC and Bar, died on December 1 aged 83. He was born on January 23, 1915.

DIGGER MAGILL made newspaper headlines at the start of the 1960s when he was identified as "the officer who would press the nuclear button". It followed his appearance in No 1 Court at the Old Bailey, where a number of "ban-the-bomb" demonstrators were accused of breaching national security at a US Air Force base in East Anglia.

Then an air commodore serving in the Air Ministry as director of operations, Magill was indeed the officer who would have launched Britain's V-bomber force, armed with the country's strategic nuclear deterrent, if Armageddon had been facing the world.

His role was revealed to the public when he appeared as the chief prosecution witness in the trial - earning him unsought and embarrassing publicity. Still worse was the abuse he received from demonstrators and in numerous letters, at a time when nuclear disarmament was a highly contentious issue.

The post which he occupied

from 1959 until 1962, was, in other ways too, a frustrating one for Magill. Much of his time was spent outlining the RAF's case for retaining the nuclear deterrent in the face of competition from the Navy. This ended in defeat for the RAF in 1962, with cancellation of the Skybolt air-launched missile programme and its replacement by the submarine-launched Polaris system.

Magili, therefore, left Whitehall with few regrets to become commandant of the RAF College of Air Warfare at Manby, Lincolnshire. Within



two years, however, he was back in the newly unified Ministry of Defence as Director-General of Organisation a key position in the mid 1960s, when the RAF braced itself for further contraction with the withdrawal from East of Suez.

In 1967 he produced the Magill Report, which helped to save the university air squadrons from the axe. He retired at the beginning of 1970, after more than three decades in the RAF, reflecting that at the outset he had meant to serve only four years.

Graham Reese Magili was born in Cambridge, New Zealand, the son of a draper whose parents had emigrated there from Co Antrim. He earned the sobriquet "Digger" as a child and was rarely known by any other name thereafter. Although he did well at Te Aroha High School. he declined to go to university - a decision he always regretted - opting instead to train as an electrical engineer at

Hamilton Technical College. while as a journalist before

deciding that he wanted to fly. On the advice of his local flying club, he scraped together enough money to pay for his passage to Britain in order commission, intending to return to New Zealand as a civil pilot. When the RAF accepted him in 1936, he was down to his last few shillings.

Magill's first operational posting was to Khartoum and, once war broke out, he spent the first part of it flying missions against the Italians in Abyssinia. He won his first DFC there in 1941, and also served in Cairo and the Western Desert before returning to Britain and bombing assignments in NW Europe.

One of his most frightening missions involved laying smoke above the beach at Dieppe flying "virtually on the deck" along the highwater mark. He could see the antiaircraft batteries on the cliffs above train their guns on him as he approached. But they had not aimed far enough in front of him, and blew up the plane just behind.

He won the bar to his DFC in 1943, by that time an acting wing commander. The citation referred to one sortie when he flew back to base in his badly damaged bomber, its cabin awash with high-octane fuel which could have caught fire at any moment. The experi-ence left him with a lifelong

hatred of the smell of petrol. He married his wife Betty in 1942 after meeting her at RAF Upwood, where she had been serving as an officer in the WAAF. On his retirement they lived in Majorca for 20 years, returning in 1990 because of her worsening arthritis. She died in the following year and He left there after just a Magill, who had been fighting year and then worked for a cancer, is survived by two Magill, who had been fighting

ON THIS DAY

December 30, 1910 经验的证

R. F. Doherty (1874-1910) won the All-England lawn tennis Singles championship four times and, with his brother, H. L. Doherty, the Doubles championship eight times.

titular supremacy lasted -has dominated and influenced the game. In speaking of Mr. R. F. Doherty the name of Mr. H. L. Doherty almost inevitably rises to the lips to challenge comparison. But it is probable that the militence of the elder brother both has been and will be more far-reaching than that of the younger, partly for the reason that his style was the more attractive and at the same time the more difficult to imitate.

Mr. R. F. Doherty was essentially the born player, the man of genius, as compared with the man of somewhat less innate aptitude and somewhat more studied campaign. Nothing

Part C. Santer open cample 199 - 17,55 M + 164 pp 5,37 at 25,5 M to 197 at 125 per 199 before the 30 for the company open cample and the cample and the company open campl

has been seen more fascinating than his game, with its style unsurpassed for grace and careless ease. He had a very long reach, and his service delivered from a very high throw, was, in his day, the linest in the world. He had the power of anticipation which is the mark of the first-class player, developed to an extraordinary degree. Without any apparent exertion he would be exactly at the right spot in the court at the right moment, and his stroke was generally far more severe than in appeared to be. He was physically not very strong, but his wonderful judgment saved him a great deal of exertion. His back-hand has been criticized, but though his grip, with the racket held at a decided angle to the arm. is not to be universally recommended, this stroke was perhaps the finest of them all. Even in later years, when he had practically given up tournament play, he remained, in the estimation of many of his opponents, the greatest singles player in England, and in practice games was able to give odds to so formidable a player as Mr. Ritchie, while to Cowdray, the Queen's Club professional, he usually owed 15. Even this year, in practice before Wimbledon, he beat most of the big Mr. Doherty was also a good golfer and

billiard player. He was a thorough sportsman, and very popular with a large circle of friends.

later.

WHITE SMETH— Ian, aged 52: suddenly on Borxing Day after a valiant light against cancer. Funeral Service at St. John the Baptist Church, Charlton on Wednesday January 6th at 11.30 a.m. Flowers (no cellophane please) or donations il desired to Beth Cancer Research Unit, c/o H. & C.

Matthews, Funeral Directors, 7 Burnham Rd. MIISICAI. INSTRUMENTS MITTERES Pinno Sale. Open on Throughy 31st. - Aristry Int. Jenn-ury, 1840: Bachestions on Quality Openint and Goned Pinnos. For Unbustable Pators call on Pine on 0800 0180 533. Mentiment, S Barbalov Rosses Lindón Wi Mathews, Funeral Directors, 7 Burnham Rd, Malmesbury, SN16 0BQ. Tele 01868 - 822215 MM SOM - On 21st
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mother of Margaret and
Richgrd, and Gramy to
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Adam. The Funeral
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pm on 4th January.
conducted by Marion's
brother, Cason Claud
Broun, Scottish Episcopi
Church, will be followed
by private cremation. No FLIGHTS by private cremation. No flowers. Donations in the World Owl Trust, Muncaster Carlle, 1900. DIRECTORY IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE CHOWDHARY - Dr DS. 30th MATTHEMS - Kimennette always in our thoughts

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good to be true.

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in

NEWS Three Britons killed in Yemen

Three British hostages and one Australian were killed and three other Westerners injured in Yemen when government troops stormed the hideout of an Islamic kidnap gang.

The botched rescue attempt in the remote southern town of al-Wadeaa was launched by security forces the day after terrorists, demanding the release of their leaders, seized 16 tourists. Ten of the holidaymakers were safely back in Aden amid confusion over the circumstances of the rescue attempt Pages 1, 5

Term travel could harm education

Travel companies are to be asked to warn parents in their brochures that they risk damaging their children's education by taking them on holiday in term time. The move follows an appeal by ministers to help stem the growth in unauthorised absence from school...

Sickness score sheet A disastrous year should be given a "severity score" to show how quickly they get surgery, the British Medical Association says today. The system would lead to a fairer, more transparent waiting list management

system, a report says Page 2 End to feudal lands Scotland's feudal land-owning system is to be abolished under plans to be unveiled next week to help communities to buy land from the noble families which have controlled it since the Mid-

dle Ages Top eatery in court

One of Delia Smith's favourite restaurants pleaded guilty yesterday to seven breaches of food hygiene and safety regulations. The television cook is a regular customer at Brasted's, in the old part of the City of Norwich.....Page 3

Au pair trial regret

The lawyer who led Louise Woodward's defence team has said that he may have erred in holding back evidence that could have implicated the older brother of Matthew Eappen in the eight-monthold baby's death.....Page 3

Blair dominates

Tony Blair's overwhelming dominance of British politics and his personal stamp on government is disclosed today in a survey of politicians' public impact...... Page 4 down...

Patients needing an operation Hurricane Mitch, Typhoon Vicki and the winter storms which ravaged Britain made 1998 the worst on record for natural disaster world-wide. More than 700 so called "large loss events", killing an estimated 50,000 people, have been recorded by insurers Mu-

> Sober plans for 2000 Museums and art galleries will offer a sobering antidote to the triumphalism of the Millennium

Dome in 2000 with sombre exhibitions exploring themes of death. and decadence.....

Russia debt inquiry

Russia has announced a security force investigation into the disappearance of billions of dollars over the three weeks in August when the Russian banking system virtually collapsed Page 11

Khmer Rouge 'sorry' Senior Khmer Rouge leaders

have apologised, for the first time, for the suffering they caused, when an estimated 1.7 million people died during the movement's reign of terror

Iragis remain defiant Iraq, determined to remain in the

international spotlight, claimed last night that its warplanes had defied "no-fly" zones policed by British and American aircraft, which it again vowed to shootPage 13

Best-looking man not any old Joe

All his life people told Joe Blackwood how good-looking he was and he believed them. Now Mr Blackwood, 29, has sent his photograph to the Guinness Book of Records demanding to be entered as the "best-looking man in the world". "I have always known I was handsome but it was only recently that I got the desire to do something about it," he said ...



A 70ft inflatable Betty Boop will sashay among a host of helium-filled stars for the New Year's Day parade in central London on Friday

DUSINESS

Flying high: The stock market yesterday shook off a post-Christmas hangover to post a five-month high despite concerns about the introduction of the euro across Europe laterPage 21

Failures up: The annual rate of business failures has risen for the first time since the last recession as the economic slowdown begins to Housing market: House prices will

rise by only 4 per cent next year, according to the Halifax, the UK's biggest lender.....Page 21 Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 74.30 points to 5941.5. The pound rose 0.91 cents to \$1.6826 and also climbed 0.81 pfennig to DM2.8136. The sterling index rose to 101.2

from 100.8..

Cricket: If he never takes another Test wicket, Dean Headley will recall the day that he began as a nightwatchman and ended with six wickets to defeat Australia...... Page 37 Football: Michael Oakes, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, is to have his dismissal in the match against Blackburn Rovers expunged from the records after the referee reviewed

the incident on video Page 40 Rugby union: The Barbarians beat Leicester 38-24 in the holiday match at Welford Road in front of a crowd of nearly 15,000 Page 32

Simon Barnes: "What is the most satisfying experience in sport? Winning, we say at once, but even as we speak the word, our lips stumble over it. Because it is not quite true. Almost - but not quite".... Page 34

General: mid everywhere. Eastern parts of England and Scotland rather dul

parts of England and Scotland rather duli this morning with patidity rain and strong winds. The winds will be gale-force across NE Scotland it will brighten slowly, and the wind will ease this afternoon. W England, Wales, W Scotland and N Ireland will start windy and cloudy. Sunny breats will develop, but western coasts will see chizzly rain; showers elsewhere, heavest in northwest. Tonight, rain in E will move away to leave lighter winds and clear periods. Cloud will increase in W with rain possible by dawn.

Londo, SE, E, NE Eng, E Ang; chill, wet, windy Fresh S wind. Mai 11C (S2F).

Cent S, Cent N Eng, Midtende, Chan let early rant; brighter later with scattered showers Mod SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

SW, NW England, Wates, Lakes, loke.

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Race winner: Sanjeev Bhaskar, the man who gave Asians a comic voice

in Goodness Gracious Me, talks about Peter Sellers and other un-Rising star: This week's Great British Hope is a 19-year-old folk musician who is making inroads into traditional Irish music - despite com-

ing from Kent.... ...Page 30 Unsung heroes: In the first of a short series celebrating forgotten figures in 20th-century arts, Rodney Milnes pays tribute to the composer Leslie Stuart......Page 31 Off Broadway: In New York, Bene-

dict Nightingale investigates three new plays by young dramatists, including Wit, by Margaret Edson, and Kenneth Lonergan's This Is Our Youth .

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS

Geoff Brown sees

Jonathan Frakes

boldly directing

and starring in

Helen Bamber's

dedication to treating

victims of torture

from all over the world

mod ow wird. Max 11C (SZF).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aherdeen, Moray Firth, Orlowy, Shetland: wet, very windy, gales in places. Slowly brightening. Strong to gale-force SE wind, veering SW later Max 8C (46F).

SW, NE, NW Scottand, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argylit early rain clearing to give suriny spells and showers. Strong SE wind, evering SW later. Max 10C (SDF).

In Ireland: very windy. Heavy showers, bright spells, Strong SW wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ Rep of Ireland: sunny intervals; a few showers, dying out. Cloudier later. Winds light, strengthening S later. Max 11C (52F)

☐ Outlook: rain in W tomorrow. Cloud elsewhere, a few sunny spells. Rain wi spread east overnight. Wet in east on New Year's Day; some sunshine in the west.

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■ BOOKS

Star Trek: Insurrection

Brave new world: Is the golden age of discovery over? Probably not many scientists believe that extraordinary progress will be made in the next century..... Nigel Hawkes: Doubts about a uni-

versal "truth", the sandpiper's radar-like detection skills Page 14 Christmas child: In sub-zero temperatures, the car carrying the pregnant Albanian had broken down. How peace monitors in Kosovo helped to deliver a baby on Christmas Day Page 15

Getaway: "Desperate to escape the claustrophobia for a few days, we have been staying in East Hampton, summer home to celebrities including Steven Spielberg and Ralph Lauren." Joanna Coles and family flee Manhattan...... Page 15

Clean break Why move house when you can just clear out your

The creation of the euro is an historic milestone on the path toward European union. It will push European countries to adopt similar economic policies while depriving individual nations of significant powers they now enjoy. At best, it will chine rivalling the United States. At worst, it will lead to political strife within the Continent.

The New York Times

Preview: Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay play widowers who form an unlikely friendship. A Rather English Marriage (BBC2, 10.15pm) Review: Peter Barnard on what Kansas thinks about Bill Clin-

Kidnap in Yemen

The killings of British tourists held hostage in Yemen came as a shock. Diplomats and travel companies alike have portrayed Yemeni kidnappers as the providers of a fringe benefit of Arabian travel. This tragedy is an anomaly, but it may in the end have made Yemen a safer coun-

The fifties

Elizabeth David's first book Mediterranean Food was published in 1950, rapidly followed by recipes from the Italian and French countryside and her masterly French Provincial Cooking...... Page 17

Stumping the pundits

A cricket match, it appears, is not over until the Kent fast bowler sings or takes six swift wickets as an alternative.....

DAVID SELBOURNE

Evasion and falsehood are widely employed to give the slip to the idea that common moral rules can and should exist . . a culture of rights co-exists with a cynicism about the distinctions between right and wrong...... Page 16

BRONWEN MADDOX

It crept up on me, like any mild addiction. But I now have a visceral leap of guilty excitement if I see a flag hanging outside a dusty shop. even before I make out the word "Antiques"..... .. Page 16

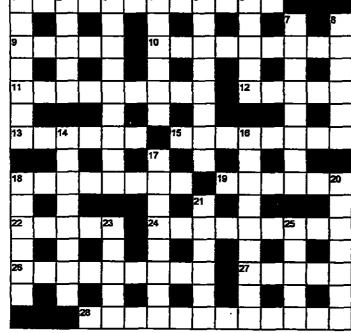
ALAN COREN

My heart goes out to you today, old chums, it really does. For today is that unique day when you will all be compelled to do what I am compelled to do every day. Today, you are all hacks Page 16

Givn Charles, Olympic yachtsman: Frank Williamson, former Chief Constable; Air Vice-Marshal G. R. Magill.....Page 19

Sheffield "eyesore"; Mandelson; regional art galleries; Balliol protest: Kerala's elephants......Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,987



ACROSS

- I Female who's a cold fish without any weak point (8.4).
- 9 Indifferent about parliament reraining power (5). 10 Ship, at sea, not like a Queen?
- 11 Study's ard, terribly so, for literary antiquarian (9). 12 The stuff a corporal's made of (5).
- 13 Language used in trading concern, we hear (6). 15 Only a small part of the tiff I, un-
- fortunately, had (8). 18 Sort of party that succeeds La-
- 19 Drinking den, retreat of policemen and of poets (6). 22 Suit's expensive, cut in classical
- style (5).
 24 Having cover giving protection from complex projectile (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.986



26 Works with company, say, turn ing round wooden vessels (9). Indication of resignation in house, by friend abandoning leader (2-3) 28 A lot of cards carried by irritating

people in supermarket containers

- DOWN ! Bill and another man in court were a nuisance (5,2).
- Jolly lucky (5). 3 City once invested in this, madly
- perhaps (9). Book a popular flight (6). Old part of Europe - find short breaks there extremely popular
- bit (1-4). Aggressive gang member fell upon leader (8). 8 Field marshal's excusably bad lan-

6 Correspondence that's sent bit by

- guage? (6). 14 Obscure study, perhaps, in which negative results are fixed (8).
- 16 Tailor isn't sharp enough to make one swap cutters. say (5-4). 17 Daft as he, and they, might be?
- stream (6). 20 Posts for soldiers not in the renks? (7). Cheese's, say, in piece of cake (6).

18 Ornament little boy found in

23 What's caught with fishing equipment goes in here (5). 25 Rules of behaviour traditional in society, not new (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 40

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HOURS OF DARKNES

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Changes to chart from noon: low A edges westwards and slowly

fills. Low T loses its identity. High C is slow-moving and builds

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Cold front

INSIDE SECTION



BUSINESS Scottish lairds

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ARTS

Asian comedy: licensed to make you laugh **PAGES 30, 31**



SPORT

Simon Barnes recalls the highs and lows of 1998

PAGES 32-40

TELEVISION AND **RADIO Pages** 38, 39

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 1998

Failure rate up by 6% as slowdown takes toll

By Alasdair Murray

THE annual rate of business failures has risen for the first time since the last recession as the economic slowdown begins to bite, a new survey published today shows.

However, separate data published yesterday confirmed that consumer appetite for credit and mortgages is yet to suffer a marked downturn despite the rapidly slowing economy

The number of business failures increased by 6.2 per cent to total 38.636 in 1998, according to new research published by Dun & Bradstreet today. The increase was the first since 1992, with the business failure rate showing a marked rise in the second half of the year.

Philip Mellor, senior analyst for Dun & Bradstreet, said: The high cost of the pound and the slowdown in the world economy are the main contributors to what has been a fairly rapid downturn in busi-

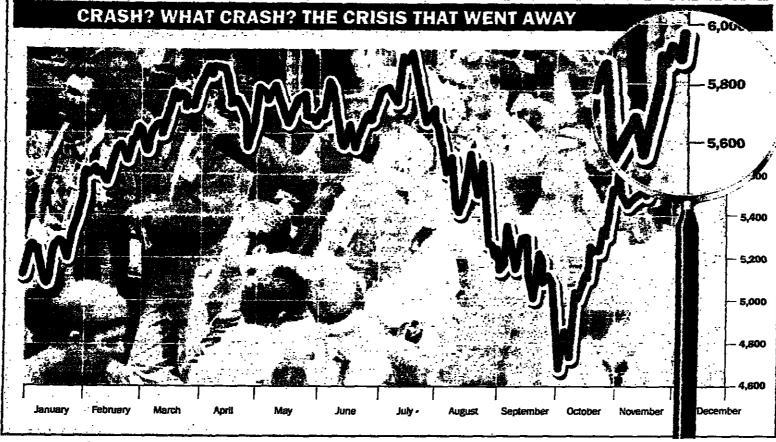
ness solvency."
However, Martin Farrow, head of the small and mediumsized enterprise unit at the Confederation of British Industry. pointed out that the overall evel of failures remains much lower than in the last recession, suggesting that small businesses are much less fi-

nancially exposed. This supports the view that the downturn will not be as long or as deep as last time around," Mr Farrow added. Worst-hit regions were the in

dustrial heartlands of the East Midlands and Scotland where failures increased by more than 15 per cent. The South East and South West, however, recorded further modest falls in the number of companies suffering bankruptcy.
The separate British Bank-

ers' Association lending data for November showed a modest decline in new mortgage lending in line with the traditional end-of-year slowdown in the housing market. Credit card and overdraft borrowing. however, increased, suggesting that consumers are still happy to raise short-term borrowings before Christmas.

New mortgage loans to-tailed 48,214, with a total value of £3.05 billion, a decline of about 10 per cent from October. Credit card borrowing showed a modest 5 per cent increase to £4.26 billion, with net lending climbing £412 million, the largest monthly



Shares surge to leave index near record high

By Alasdair Murray and Michael Clark

month high despite concerns about the introduction of the euro later this week.

The FTSE 100 index of leading shares climbed 74.3 points to 5941.5 although trading was extremely thin with volume registering only 262 million shares as most investors opted to remain on the sidelines ahead of the start of the euro. The strong performance in London, dubbed "the Santa Claus rally", commued on Wall Street, which overcame an indifferent opening to prolong its seven-day rise. By lunchtime in

THE stock market yesterday New York, the Dow Jones inshook off a post-Christmas dustrial average had risen dicted by many long-term and UBS, which was swallowterest rate co-ordination in orhangover to post a fiveabout 75 points to within 70 bulls. The FTSE 100 is set to ed up by Swiss Bank Corporader to stabilise exchange rates. points of its all-time high. Other European markets

also posted modest rises with trading limited by the imminent birth of the euro. In Paris shares closed up 0.4 per cent while the Dax in Frankfurt recorded a rise of 0.3 per cent. In London, market activity was largely limited to leading institutions topping up their holdings of blue chip shares ahead of the year end. The

end the year up 14 per cent. Leading the bulls with its year-end forecast almost spot on was Warburg Dillon Reed.

for the FTSE 100 may even be matched during today's shortened trading session if share prices continue to be spurred on by stock shortages. Warburg stood out alone at least 300-points above its nearest rivals NatWest Markets stock squeeze helped the marand BZW, now part of Credit Suisse First Boston, which were both perched on 5,700. ket to make early gains of

tion this year and is now part of Warbug Dillon Reed. Chase Manhattan was the most bearish with a forecast of 5,300. the broker. Its forecast of 6,000

Activity was almost non-existent on the foreign exchanges de-spite Otmar Issing, a European Central Bank board member, telling Stern magazine in Germany that the ECB would leave interest rates at 3 per cent for the "foreseeable" future.

Herr Issing said he saw no near-term danger of either de-flation or inflation and strongly criticised attempts by Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance

European markets, however

remain confident that the ECB will cut rates in the first part of 1999 in an effort to limit an expected slowdown in growth. The dollar slipped slightly against the mark to trade at

DM1.6990. The pound shrugged off fears of post-euro volatility to close up nearly a plennig at DM2.8136. Sterling also made modest gains against the dollar to close at \$1.6826 and rose from 100.8 to 101.2 on its trade-weighted index.

Commentary, page 23

Russia rejects interest payment

demand BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Russian Government yesterday rejected a final de-mand to pay \$360 million in interest payments, leaving West-ern creditors fearful that the country could be on the verge of full-scale default.

Mikhail Zadornov, Russian Finance Minister, confirmed that Russia would not pay the interest ahead of yesterday's deadline, but said that non-payment did not amount to default.

The Russian Government claims it has won the support of 70 per cent of the London Club of commercial creditors for a plan to restructure some \$30 billion of debt inherited from the Soviet era.

However, some creditors argued that Russia requires a full 95 per cent of creditors to accept debt restructuring and that by failing to pay the latest interest payment. Russia is ef-fectively in default. Bank of America, which is

acting as paying agent on the loans, said creditors would take further legal advice on the debt position.

Russia's latest debt problems came as Sergei Stepa-shin. Russia's Interior Minister, revealed the Government was conducting an investigation into allegations that Central Bank officials had fraudulently wasted "billions of dollars" and were responsible for

ation of the rouble in August. However, Sergei Dubinin, the former head of the Central Bank, immediately hit back at the allegations, claiming the investigation was a politically inspired attempt to discredit the

previous Government.

Mr Dubinin said that reports that the Central Bank had salted \$9 billion abroad were inaccurate and based on a misreading of statistics compiled to estimate illegal capital flight from Russia.

Mislaid billions, page 11

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

LONDON MONEY

SSS BOLLAR

NORTH SEA OIL

GOLD

denotes midday trading price

Flotations sink

The UK stock market has all but closed to smaller comgrowth, with trading companies raising just £40 million in the final quarter, according to figures from KPMG Corporate Finance. Page 22

Wide berth

Vardon, the health and fitness club operator, has ter-minated its joint venture with Peter Beckwith, the multi-millionaire, under which the upmarket Harbour Club brand would have been rolled out across Europe.

LTCM partners will not receive bonus

They were followed on 5,600 by

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

JOHN MERIWETHER, the founder of Long Term Capital Management, will be paid an annual salary of \$250,000 but no homis, it has emerged. Mr Meriwether and the oth-er partners at the failed hedge

fund were angered by reports that they will personally benefit from a \$50 million bonus paid to LTCM at the year end. The bonus, which was agreed by the consortium that bailed out the hedge fund in the autumn, will be used to pay legal expenses incurred during the protracted bailout

more than 100 points, leaving the FTSE within a whisker of

negotiations. The salaries of \$250,000 for each of the partners who oversaw Wall Street's most spectacular collapse in a decade were set as part of the bailout. The \$50 million company bo-

nus results from an agreement that guarantees the partners a 15 per cent cut of all profits

above the London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor), as well as a 1 per cent management fee on the \$4 billion invested. The future of LTCM is still

uncertain and Mr Meriwether has not given up hope that he could one day regain control of the fund.

Goldman Sachs twice tried

Warren Buffett, the America investor, would buy out the consortium. But Mr Buffett sisted on dismissing Mr Me wether and his team. Go man then approached Prin al-Waleed bin Talal, the Sau investor. Negotiations are sa to be on hold.

House prices to rise by 4%, says Halifax

By CAROLINE MERRELL

only 4 per cent next year, according to the Halifax, the

UK's biggest lender.
This rise follows an increase in house prices this year of between 5 per cent and 6 per cent. Unusually, the Halifax's predictions for house prices next year are more optimistic than those by the Nationwide

Building Society.
The Nationwide claims that prices will rise by around 3 per cent. It says that over the past 12 months house prices have increased by around 7 per cent. The society claimed: "Although market conditions are likely to deteriorate further, we see many reasons for being optimistic about an improvement during the second half of 1999."

According to the Halifax, average UK house prices returned to their 1989 peak in March of this year. Although prices remain some 24 per cent below their late-Eighties peak after an allowance is made for retail price inflation.

HOUSE prices will rise by The average standardised price of a UK house in the first 11 months of 1998 reached

Martin Ellis, Halifax economist, said: "We are on course to see a much more muted housing market cycle this time around, with neither the boom or bust in prices that we have seen on previous occasions. These are signs of a fundamentally healthy market."

The house price inflation of the late Eighnes saw prices rocket by more than 20 per cent a year. In 1988, for example, house prices rose by 23.3 per cent. However, in 1992 prices fell by around 5.6 per cent. House price rises varied

widely across the country during the year. The steepest increases were experienced by those in London. In the first quarter of the year, annual house price inflation was running at about 124 per cent. Northern Ireland also showed some steep rises on the back of the peace-making process.



Late rush boosts John Lewis

By Sarah Cunningham, retail correspondent

JOHN LEWIS, the department store group, said that a last-minute rush of Christmas shoppers should ensure that December trading will be in line with last year, in spite of sluggish demand earlier in the month.

Brian O'Callaghan, its direcsales figures. tor of trading (department stores), said that brisk trade in Most retailers were complaining that trade was very

the final few days before Christmas has enabled us to eliminate the shortfall from the first three weeks of December and we expect to close the month in line with last year". John Lewis is the only big retailer to publish weekly

slow ahead of Christmas, and many began sales carly in order to draw in shoppers. First reports from the post-Christmas winter sales are of reasonably brisk trade. Mr O'Callaghan said that

Christmas Day falling on a Friday, giving an extra shopping day in the run-up week, "has had a significant impact

on the overall picture for th John Lewis, which is unde

the chairmanship of Sir Stu art Hampson, last week re ported that sales were down 3.6 per cent in the week to De cember 19, down 2.9 per cent in the week to December L and down 4 per cent in the week to December 5.

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utgoing regulator attacks power plant ban

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE BAN on most new gas-fired power stations should be relaxed as soon as possible in order to boost competition, according to the electricity regulator, who yesterday took a last swipe at the Government.

Stephen Littlechild, who is to leave in the form of lower prices." the post tomorrow, said: "The policy

more competitive electricity market.

"A continuing threat to incumbents from new entrants is of the utmost importance in preventing collusion, and in ensuring that reforms to trading arrangements are successful and deliver benefits to customers, particularly

The Government put a de facto

stations last year amid a crisis in the coal industry. In its energy White Paper it pledged to continue that ban, although small environmentally friendly schemes are likely to slip through the net. The ban flies in the face of Professor Littlechild's logic that competition in generation -- which has been widely seen as being lacking will only be increased by the arrival

of restricting new entry into generation is now the main obstacle to a stations last year amid a crisis in the ment instead chose to force the big generators National Power and PowerGen to sell some of their capacity in order to stimulate the market.

Professor Littlechild also warned regional electricity companies they would face tighter controls on their distribution costs than they hope. After they submitted their estimates ahead of the next pricing plan - to ap-

ply from 2000 — the regulator said: It is too soon to form a judgment in detail, but I certainly hope that it will be possible to set more challenging targets than the companies propose." Professor Littlechild is leaving to make way for a new joint electricity and gas regulator. Callum McCarthy takes the dual role in the new year.

Commentary, page 23

Flotations slump as small firms lose favour

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE UK stock market has all but closed to smaller companies seeking to finance their growth, according to figures from KPMG Corporate Finance.

In the last three months, only three trading companies have raised money through a flotation. Bioglan Pharma, Financial Objects and MSW Technology raised less than £40 million between them the smallest quarterly total recorded by KPMG in the 1990s.

Even including new investment trusts and demergers of companies such as Fairview Holdings, the housebuilder previously owned Hillsdown Holdings, there were only 14 new listings in the final quarter, and only 68 over the year as a whole. In contrast. 40 companies lost their

listing in the last three months. Neil Austin, head of new issues at KPMG Corporate Finance, said: "It's not new is-

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	Bank Buys 2.84 20.82 61.29 2.729 0.8780 11.32 5.94 9.12 9.92 2.981 499 13.86 129	Bank Sells 2.67 19.16 56.33 2.541 0.8065 10.43 5.33 8.37 9.14 2.739 460 12.66 109
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Rates for small deni	omenedon i	ankrote:

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sues that have fallen out of favour. Smaller quoted companies have fallen out of favour with investors. Because most new issues are small cap stocks. they've got caught up in it." Shares in small companies

have persistently underperformed larger companies in recent years. It is also difficult for large institutional investors to invest in small companies to make it worth their while. Last year's flotations raised

a total of £3.9 billion; in 1997. 100 companies raised £6.7 billion, and in 1996, 113 flotations raised £10.1 billion. The 1998 total of money raised was the third lowest this decade.

Mr Austin said the new issue market virtually closed down at the end of July and there is no hint of an upturn on the horizon. He said a turnaround will come when investors start to take advantage of big disparities between valuations of small and large companies.

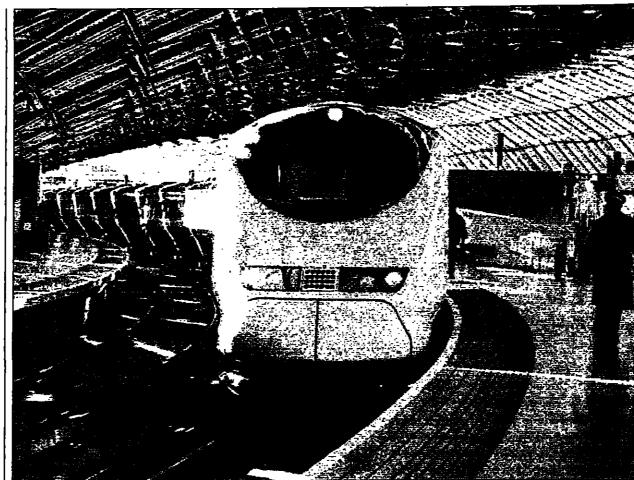
A weak new issue market will eventually damage enthusiasm for management buyouts. since many investors seek to make their "exit" via a flotation.

Figures yesterday from the Centre of Management Buy-Out Research (CMBOR) confirmed the recent slowdown in the MBO market. Although the total value of deals concluded in was a record at £13.4 billion, the final-quarter total was only £2.2 billion, a 40 per cent decline from the average of the

previous three quarters.

Tom Lamb, managing director UK of Barclays Private Equity, said the number of deals worth less than E50 million was remaining relatively stable but "the private equity mega deal shopping spree is clearly over for the time being". Barclays Private Equity sponsors CM-BOR's work.

More MBOs and manage ment buy-ins are going into receivership, in line with the weakening economy.



hannel rail link loan record

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE CONSORTIUM behind the Channel Tunnel rail link (CTRL) is poised to start raising funds for the project with the largest-ever sterling borrowing outside the gilt market.

An official announcement on the date and the size of the first tranche of funding, which will take the form of up to £1.65 billion of eurobonds

guaranteed by the Government, is expected early next month. Warburg Dillon Read. the investment bank, has been appointed joint lead manager on the first tranche of bonds with HSBC Markets.

London & Continental Railways (LCR), which is building the much-delayed 68-mile rail link, plans to raise up to £2.65 billion of bonds in either two or three tranches to finance the first section of the link, between the Channel Tunnel and the existing line to Waterloo.

Up to £1.1 billion will be raised at a later stage to finance section two, which will complete the link from north Kent to London St Pancras. The bonds will be fully and

unconditionally guaranteed by the Government as part of a revised public-private part-nership plan unveiled in June. The original plan collapsed last January after John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, rejected a plea by LCR for an extra £1.2 billion of public

Section one will be financed by EJ billion of bonds due by 2010, and up to £1.65 billion of bonds due 2028. The longer-dated tranche may be further subdivided to include up to £650 million of bonds due 2038, if market conditions

AT&T to hit job | Wetherspoon to cuts target early

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

AT&T. the US telecoms provider, expects to reach its goal of cutting 18,000 jobs a full year ahead of schedule.

When it announced the cuts in January, it said that it expected to take two years to eliminate the 18,000 jobs. But with an unexpectedly high number of managers accepting the early retirement pack-age, it now foresees hitting its target by the end of this year.

The company, which has forged an alliance with British Telecom. has cut 16,000 jobs so far and expects the final wave of early retirements to trim another 2.000, bringing the total workforce to 108,000. It attributed the higher than expected rate of early retire-

ments to the booming stock market, plentiful job opportunities and a strong retirement incentive package, which in-cluded higher pensions and ex-AT&T had expected to save

panded eligibility for benefits. \$700 million this year as a result of workforce reductions. It has not made a new savings es-timate but said that job cuts in addition to the planned 18,000 may occur in 1999.

Burke Stinson, company spokesman, said, "We will continue to trim jobs in areas that are not growing for AT&T traditional voice and administrative work - and we will continue to add jobs in the businesses that prove to be high-

add 80 pubs

By Dominic Walsh

JD WETHERSPOON, the ly since summer, adding: The pub operator, is to spend E100 million opening 80 pubs in 1999 — about 10 per cent more than its previous forecasts. The openings will create

2,000 full-time and part-time jobs. Rivals such as Bass and Whitbread have scaled back ambitious expansion pro-grammes in response to the weaker economic outlook. City doubts over Wether-

spoon's prospects, plus effects of the World Cup and poor weather on summer trading, have hit its shares. Yesterday they closed Ip off at 175½p, against 341½p in March. However, Tim Martin, chairman, said that like-for-

like sales had recovered strong-

economic climate probably helps a company like ours with a perception of value for money and exposes fashion-led pubs that were never going to last that long."

The new pubs, a third of which will be in London and the South East, will range in size from a 2,500 sq ft former post office near Manchester to a 10,000 sq ft former garage in Plymouth costing £2.5 million—the chain's biggest pub. Wetherspoon has 306 pubs

and almost 8,000 staff. Mr Martin said that, despite loss of revenue during the World Cup from a ban on television sets, he had no inten-tion of reviewing the policy.

Hong Kong reports 7.1% fall in economy HONG KONG'S economy shrank by a record 7.1 per cent in the third quarter of 1998 from a year earlier, hurt by slack con-

sumer demand, falling exports and a drop in investment spending. Economists said Hong Kong's economy would continue to decline in the fourth quarter and into 1999, but at a slower rate. This was because of comparisons with recessionweakened year-ago periods as well as interest rate cuts and a more stable property market, they said. The Government revised its estimate for the fall in first-quarter GDP year-onyear to 2.6 per cent from 2.7 per cent, and the second-quarter fall to 5.1 per cent from 5.2 per cent. A marked downturn in exports of goods depressed overall economic performance in the third quarter, it said.

Total exports declined by 7 per cent in real terms in the third quarter against a year earlier, a marked drop from the decrease of 0.5 per cent in the second quarter. Imports fell even more sharply, by 10.5 per cent in the third quarter, due to the setback in domestic demand and a further decline in reexports, the Government said. This followed a 1.8 per cent decline in the second quarter.

Conoco to cut costs

CONOCO, the US energy company based in Houston yesterday said that it was taking action to cut costs and reduce capital spending in response to low oil prices. America's eighth-largest energy company will take a \$50 million charge in the fourth quarter, cut 1999 capital spending by 21 per cent and shed almost 1,000 jobs. The company is controlled by DuPont; the chemicals company, which sold a 30 per cent stake in October in America's largest initial public offering.

Eskmuir's £9m buy

ESKMUIR PROPERTIES is to pay £9.2 million for four fully let freehold office buildings at Randalls Park, Leatherhead, Surrey. The vendor is Langbourn Property Investment Services, part of Sun Life of Canada, on behalf of in-house clients. Total rental income is £799,020 a year, or £12.85 a square foot. The net initial yield is 8.3 per cent and the running yield is expected to rise to more than 9 per cent in 2002, Eskmuir said. The purchase is its fourth since flotation in May. The company said that the market continues to offer good opportunities.

Halliburton cuts jobs

HALLIBURTON, the US oil services company with extensive North Sea interests, gave warning that profits would fall short of expectations and said another 2,750 job losses were planned. The company blamed low crude oil prices, saying it expected earnings per share of between 14 cents and 16 cents, compared with forecasts of 36 cents. There will be a fourth-quarter charge of \$35 million (£20.8 million) against job cuts. The losses are in addition to 8,100 redundancies arising from the acquisition of Dresser Industries, the rival oil services company, in September.

US home sales rise-

SALES of US existing homes rose to a near record in November and were on pace to exceed last year's levels, because of a strong economy and low mortgage rates, a real estate group said yesterday. The National Association of Realtors said that home resales rose by 2.7 per cent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.90 million units, falling just short of the record 4.91 million annual rate set last July. NAR expects housing sales to hit 4.78 million for 1998. which would break last year's record of 4.22 million resales.

Centrica raises £92m

CENTRICA, the energy company that was part of the former British Gas, has raised £92 million through a sale to Bankers Trust and leaseback of two gas platform topsides located in the South Morecambe field. The leases are for 20 years and will be accounted for as finance leases, Centrica said. The transactions will not affect Centrica's licence interests or its operation of the South Morecambe field; it said. It is estimated that, at the pre-tax profit level, 1999 financing costs on the amount raised will be reduced by 2.7 per cent. compared to existing facilities.

Harb

Galaxy Media rising

SHARES in Galaxy Media rose 16½p to 78p after the company confirmed that it was considering bidding for the television rights to the cricket World Cup. The statement followed weekend press reports tipping the company as a potential bidder for the rights to the cricket World Cup in 2003 and 2007. Any bid would be made through Sports News Group (SNG), an independent business controlled by Graham Gutteridge, Galaxy's chief executive. Galaxy has an option to buy SNG for up to £2.8 million, which is open until June 30.

Laird buys in Munich

LAIRD GROUP, a vehicle engineering company, has bought Bavaria Elektronic, a provider of electromagnetic interference shielding products based near Munich, for DMI6.8 million (£6 million) in cash. Bavaria's turnover is expected to be DM21.0 million in the current year. It will become part of Laird's APM subsidiary, which was acquired in 1996, and will strengthen its subsidiary. position in Europe. Laird's share price drifted 14:p lower yester-day to 150p, having been as high as 4784:p in the first half. Pre-tax profits fell 41 per cent in the first half to £20.5 million.

Goodhead sells stake

GOODHEAD GROUP, the printing group based in Oxford-shire, has sold its 29.23 per cent stake in WHY publications to Daily Mail Investment. Trust for £2.39 million. Goodhead has also agreed to dispose of its holding of 940,790 preference shares in WHY at their issue price of £1 per share. WHY publishes advertising-only magazines that circulate in the Midlands. The net book value of Goodhead's holding of WHY ordinary and preference shares on May 31 was £1.03 million, which produced income of £180,000.

Kuwait woos foreign oil investors

By SAEED SHAH

FOREIGN oil companies will invest up to \$7 billion (£4.2 billion) to develop Kuwait's northern fields, which border Iraq, over the next five years to double production there.

Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Sabah, Kuwait's Oil Minister, said the country had held talks with British and American oil companies and was confident of co-operation agreements to take production from these northern fields to more than 900,000 barrels a day. So far Kuwait has limited

foreign participation to technical assistance. The minister emphasised that foreign ownership of its natural resources will remain banned by the Kuwaiti constitution. Under the new arrangement, foreign companies will be paid a service fee for development and production but they will have

to buy the oil. The minister said that at a later stage, oilfields in central and western Kuwait will also be offered to

foreign companies. Tony Mills, an analyst at Wood Mackenzie, the energy consultancy, said that al-though Kuwait faces a large budget deficit because of the low price of oil, the offer of the northern fields was strategically motivated. He said: "It's a human shield approach. They want British and American companies sitting between

them and Iraq."
Separately, Kuwait announced a series of measures to reform its heavily subsidised economy to cope with the oil slump. Saudi Arabia, which is also

known to be considering allowing foreign companies to invest in its oil and gas sector. yesterday unveiled an austerity budget for 1999.

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Oskar's snub

A FRANCO-GERMAN row has blown up on the eve of tomorrow's Ecolin meeting in Brussels, where EU finance ministers or their representatives will sit down to thrash out the exchange rates between their respective currencies and the euro. This hugely important event is even being televised for the benefit of the populations of the 11 participating countries. Expect balloons, speeches and a general air of a financial Eurovision Song Contest, therefore. Do not expect Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, who would arguably be the most important partici-pant. He has refused to return from a family holiday for the event. The French, who are taking it all

terribly seriously, are fit to be tied,

particularly Dominique Strauss-

Kahn. Oskar's French counterpart.

Our own Gordon Brown is this week on holiday with his mum in Scotland, and the Treasury will probably confirm today that he, too, will not be there. But as we are not participating in the euro, his absence is hardly the snub, deliberate or otherwise, being served up on the French by Red Oskar.

STROLLING around a surprisingly busy City yesterday lunchtime. I realise that someone has badly miscalculated the number of people in work. The shops are all open for the first day of their sales, but about two thirds of the sandwich bars have not bothered. As a result, the queues were enormous and at least one househ of enormous, and at least one branch of the normally reliable Pret a Manger chain was about to run out - at a



quarter past one. It sets me to wondering. At least 30,000 people are in over the next weekend to prepare for the euro. I know the Broadgate branch of Corney & Barrow is open on New Year's Day, for the first time in 228 years. But what on earth is everybody else going to eat?

Drinks top-ups THE remuneration committee at

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, the bidder for fellow brewer Marston, Thompson & Evershed, has made a shocking discovery. The directors are underpaid, bed brewers and with constructions and with the construction of the construc and pub operators and with local companies in the West Midlands. A detailed survey found that the W&DB board was paid on average two thirds of their highest-paid equivalents elsewhere. The comminee put new bonus targets in place. So the pay of David Thompson, W&DB's outspoken managing director, is up 26 per cent to £240,000, the annual accounts show, and total boardroom remuneration is 30 per cent higher, al-though much of this is because previous years' bonuses were waived as di-

rectors felt the results then had been. But, I put it to Thompson, isn't the

trouble with such reviews that they can only ratchet up salaries as everyone keeps up with a moving average? The issue must to a certain extent be denominated by what you have to pay to recruit." he says. So pay far some senior managers has been rising. Have you had trouble recruiting directors, then? "No."

Overdrawn.

A BLACK mark to the Treasury, which like the rest of the civil service which like the rest of the civil service was still on holiday yesterday, although, to be fair, they were at least in contact with the ourside world. I am told it was a Privilege Day, as if secure jobs and inflation-linked persions weren't privileges enough. This means they all get an extra day at Christmas. Even the Treasury although you would have thought with the euro just days away there was the euro just days away there was

enough for them to do. MARTIN WALLER





to to cut costs

uir's £9m buy

arton cuts jobs

me sales rise

Media rising

ven France is beginning to wake up to the uncomfortable business reality of European Union. You cannot join in and still keep everything under your own national control. Legendary Paris diplomatic skills have ensured that Prenchmen run the IMF, the European Bank and, after a boief Dutch hiahis, the European Central Bank But the agreement of the British and German stock exchanges to

join up, without Paris if necesjoin up, without Paris if necessary, was a shock.
Far worse for Gallic gloire is the fear that carefully groomed Prench national, champions might be bypassed in the creation of Europe-wide defence businesses. France, after all, persuaded the British and German governments that the model for a new alliance should be Airbus Industrie. Airbus is a four-country. dustrie. Airbus is a four-country consortium, but most key operations are in France, whose government, via ownership of Aerospatiale, is the key shareholder.

Maybe that is why privately owned defence contractors in other Fill comments.

er EU countries argued that mergers with French state firms were not on. The security implica-tions of inevitable French control made it easier to convince other governments that their grand in-dustrial strategy was a business and political nightmare.

French governments of either hue prepared for Europe-wide rationalisation by refusing any for-eign takeovers and forcing their

The French become defensive

own defence businesses to merge into powerful blocs. The former chairman of Thomson-CSF fell in the process, after he planned a merger with GEC's Marconi.

Thomson and the enlarged Aerospatiale are still junior to Europe's defence leaders, British Aerospace and Marconi. BAe is talking separately to Germany's smaller Dasa. GEC is twotiming Thomson with BAe, Lock-heed and Northrop Grumman. Swedish, Italian and Spanish firms are players too. Rolls-Royce's future is integral.

Denis Ranque, new chairman of Thomson, is trying to square this circle. He claims to have persuaded the French Government to cut its stake in Thomson below 10 per cent as a condition of a merger agreement it approves. Using this condition as lever-

age. Thomson is trying to make a 50-50 merger, when Marcom is bigger and better in defence. GEC shareholders will surely prefer an American takeover to giving Thomson more than 40 per cent of a joint company.

if a European grouping is go-ing to be run for profit on Anglo-Saxon lines, without manipula-tion by big shareholders, BAe and Marconi must get together



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

first. The Airbus consortium was a start-up, to which each memher made its own contribution. While European defence rationalisation must be couched in language of merger, there is no rea-son to expect defence mergers to be any more equal than others. For the most part, the question is who will take over whom at what price. French negotiators under-stand that. British boards need to see the light before it goes out.

Consumers' friend has the last word

S tephen Littlerhild is going out with the old year from his job as electricity regulator. The main reason, reorganisation aside, is that he believes what he says. To put it more kindly to his detractors, he a cleverer economist than he is a politician, and "independent" regulators need to be both.

The Professor, as he is known

to fans and detractors alike, believes in the power of competition so much that he thinks it worthwhile to create competitive conditions artificially, in the manner of Dolly the sheep, where nature did not intend them.

In the model that the Professor sold to the Thatcher Government, the State, in the form of price regulation, really will wither away. You have only to create a competitive market and then to trust the working of market forces to protect consumers as relia-bly in utilities as in other markets where there is choice. Even in its own terms, the argu-

ment is never quite perfect. However much competition you inject, there is always some residual monopoly, in wires, pylons, pipelines or storage, where rates of return and prices are still set by the state regulator. And the process of introducing, widening and protecting competition always seems to require ever greater interference by politi-

its to the bone. The pool is being abolished, but it will be no surprise if market forces still operate as if competitors were colluding. The Professor did his best to cians in the very businesses that fulfil his brief. His successor will they seek to stop regulating. find out if it was the right one.

The Professor's worst problem however, was that governments While the traders do not believe in competition. They all say they do. They may even think they do. When market forces close coalmines, freeze our are away ...

tock market investors in London will have had only one complete day of trad-ing between the day before Christmas Eve and the Monday following New Year's Day. With priorities soon change. New La-bour decided to help the mines by banning new gas-fired power stations. To promote competi-tion, the Professor would just have to blackmail National Pow-er and PowerGen to sell coalhalf days today and on Christmas Eve, the total trading time across 12 days was raised to two full sessions.

The calendar has conspired

competition through the power pool has not tended to slash prof-

fired stations to other generators. Now that he no longer has to with demands coming from the worry about politicians. Profes-sor Linlechild has used his last reintroducers of the euro to restrict the amount of trading. But was it wise to allow such long periods of closure? The inability to trade is inconvenient enough of itself, port to insist on the folly of such a policy for customers. To protect consumers via market forces, he but it may have - or indeed may be -- causing price irregularities. If any euro or other shocks arise, the market may exaggerate diffi-culties that could have been stations as possible of whatever kind make most financial sense. That is certainly the logic. But

defused more gently if trading was open for longer.

It is fair to ask whether extended closure in London was even justified. Sterling is not joining the euro and, in any case, the US share markets are probably more important to UK investors than the Continent.

An example of the distortion caused by the closure comes with the BP/Amoco merger. It is expected to be completed today or tomorrow, when London is closed but New York, where BP ADRs are widely traded, is open. The ramifications mean that the FTSE index-makers have reserved the right to substitute their own share price for the pur-poses of index calculation if the ADR inferred price is deemed 'unreliable". This is a nonsense that could have been avoided.

Fantasy shares

PERSPECTIVE is in short sup-ply on Wall Street too. A report claiming that US pre-Christmas on-line retail sales were up 230 per cent from 1997 sent any share linked to the Internet soaring. America On-line, which is planning to merge with Netscape, has multiplied sixfold this year giving it a market value bigger than Walt Disney. For a company that does not rate in the profit stakes, that is a lot to ask. Investors no doubt take courage by re-membering that even Disney was once a Mickey Mouse outfit.



TV cricket deal lifts TTC price

nuclear power or preclude envi-

ronmental levies, their political

says, we should encourage new

entrants to build as many power

AS NEWS of England's un-expected Test victory over Australia swept through the City, cricket fever lifted shares in The Televison Corporation (TTC) 15p to 235p yesterday when the company confirmed a new deal on

the sport with Channel 4 (Martin Barrow writes). TTC, one of Britain's growing band of independ-ent television production companies, is to produce all domestic cricket coverage for Channel 4, which has broken the BBC's 62-year monopoly of cricket on ter-restrial television.

Sunset + Vine, a TTC subsidiary, will produce all Nat-West Trophy matches and Test coverage from next summer, starting with the visit of the New Zealand team. Its presentation is to be led by Mark Nicholas and

Richie Benaud.

Zetters dividend cut after profits suffer 27% slump

By DOMINIC WALSH

ZETTERS, the pools and bingo operator, has cut the inter-im dividend after a 27 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £766,000 in the half year to September 30.

Reporting a drop in earnings per share to 7.2p (10p), the company trimmed the payout from 5.5p to 4p. Paul Zetter, chairman, said the cut was "considered prudent in order to increase funding for a policy of promotion and expansion".

its struggling spot-the-ball joint venture made a profit of just £11,000 (£193,000), while its pools operation declined from £289,000 to £250,000. Bingo, after increased promotional spend, made a slightly reduced

contribution of £614,000. Zetters, whose pools arm has never recovered from the is part of a lobby group in dis-cussions with the Government over the industry's future. "It is clear that both deregulation and a significant reduction of pools betting duty are necessary to preserve the pools in-dustry," said Mr Zetter.

For more than a year, the group has been seeking a strategic solution to its problems, but talks with potential bidders, including Littlewoods, have come to nothing. However, a spokes-man, said that separate discussions with possible buyers for each of its two main businesses were continuing and it was hopeful of making an announcement in the new year.

Shares in the group, 40 per cent of which are controlled by the Zetter family, closed 9p lower at 1181/p, valuing the

Gawler in Sketchley hot seat

By Fraser Nelson

SKETCHLEY took on its fourth leader in six years as David Gawler, its finance director, agreed to become chief executive of the former dry-cleaning to Supasnaps company.

Mr Gawler, who organ-ised the disposal of Sketch-ley's high street sites to rival Mister Minit, has been acting chief executive since July and has now decided to combine the roles. John Jackson, his predecessor, left when the disposal was completed in July.

Sketchley now has two legs: a workwear rental and cleaning division and a business that maintains telegraph poles and cables. Mr Gawler has no plans to split the company, and one of his first tasks will be to change its name.

Vardon pulls out of Harbour Club venture

terminated its joint venture with Peter Beckwith, the property multi-millionaire, under which the upmarket Harbour Club brand would have been rolled out across Europe.

Under the terms of the 50/50 agreement, the two sides were to have invested £60 million over four years, of which Vardon's share would have been £15 million. However, it has now been unwound "by mutual agreement" with Vardon owning the exclusive rights to the Harbour Club name in Europe.

Vardon, which last week unveiled the sale of its attractions division for £47 million to a management buyout,

VARDON, the health and August It formed part of the fitness club operator, has \$25 million acquisition of the original Harbour Club in London's Chelsea Harbour from Mr Beckwith and Francisco

> Nick Irens, Vardon chairman, said the projects put for-ward by Mr Beckwith were more ambitious than originally planned and would have been earnings dilutive. The cost of the developments he was looking to do was spiral-'ling into the realms of £10 million to £12 million and we felt uncomfortable with that," he said. We see an opportunity to develop existing tennis clubs at a cost of £5 million to

Soler, its founder.

For the next two to three years continental development of the Harbour Club

concept will focus solely on The Netherlands. The first will be in Eindhoven, where Vardon has just signed heads of agreement to acquire an existing tennis club that will be redeveloped over 12 months. It is also in talks to acquire two existing clubs in

The Hague. The unwinding of the joint venture allows Mr Beckwith, father of "It girl" Tamara, to retain ownership of the new Milan Harbour Club as well as development sites in Brussels, Hamburg and Düssel-dorf. Although the Milan club will keep its name, any new developments undertaken by Mr Beckwith will no longer be able to use the Harbour Club tag.

In the UK, Vardon is step-

ping up the development of its Cannons brand. In the first quarter of 1999 it will open new clubs in Leicester, Liverpool and Barrow-in-Purness and sites in Plymouth, Swindon and Northampton are expected to open at the end of the year or early in 2000. The average cost of the clubs is be-tween £2.5 million to £3.5

Mr Irens said that Vardon, which will shortly change its name to Cannons Group to reflect its new focus on health and fitness, continued to seek one-off acquisitions. However, it had ruled out any of the quoted operators. "That would mean paying a premium, which we don't believe would be in the interest of our



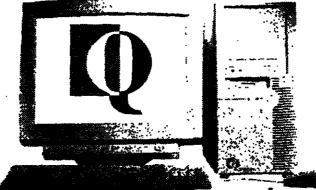
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Schwab overtakes Merrill FROM OLIVER AUGUST ZX3-POWER-STATION - £1,999+var

IN NEW YORK

CHARLES SCHWAB, the US online brokerage that bought Sharelink, has overtaken Merrill Lynch in terms of market value. The rise of Schwah marks the first time that an Internet company has outgrown its traditional competitors.

The recent surge in Internet stocks pushed up Schwab to \$26 billion (£15.5 billion) in market capitalisation, compared with Merrill's \$25 billion. Merrill is one online trading business and the rebound of the top US investment banks and the of the top US investment banks and the biggest US brokerage. It employs thou-

sands of people around the world and is the second-biggest adviser on mergers and acquisitions on Wall Street.

Schwab started out as a discount brokerage in the 1970s and offers amateur investors the ability to trade directly over the Internet without an itermediary. The company, was founded by Charles Schwab, who still owns a 13 per cent stake, now worth \$3.5 billion. Since Octo-

ber, the company's value has tripled.

Schwab is the undisputed leader in the teur investors back into the market. Internet trading has grown 30 per cent in the fourth quarter. Schwab trades on an earnings multiple of 82.

The company holds \$450 billion in as-sets and has 5.4 million customers. Some of them are Wall Street veterans who have retired to their living rooms to become armchair traders. They access research reports over the Internet and then buy or sell stocks with their million dollar savin

Merrill had long been dismissive of Internet brokering but the success of Schwab has forced the company to back-track. The first Merrill trading website will be launched in the new year.

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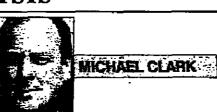
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STOCK MARKET



Brokers look to play safe with tips for year ahead

usual crop of new year share tips are being offered to City investors by the various broking houses. Last week Credit Suisse First Boston issued its five favourites for the new year, including Dixons, up 24%p to 845½p. 3i Group. 4p better at 584p. and British Aerospace. hp firmer at 518p.

Now it is the turn of Nat-West Stockbrokers, which has issued 12 tips for 1999, having ditched ten of its recommendations for 1998.

All the tips are constituents of the top 100 companies. The two companies retaining their positions are British Aero-space and Unilever, 9%p dearer at 6761/p, while newcomers featured include BP, down 8p to 9084p, Allied Zurich, up 25p to 908p, British Telecom, up 4p to 906'4p, Glaxo Wellcome 47p better to £20.73, Imperial Tobacco, 742p firmer at 6471/p, and Ladbroke, 51/p

higher at 2384p.
The remainder making up the list are Lloyds TSB, up 13p to 878p, P&O Deferred. 9p better at 712p. PowerGen. 314p dearer at 791%p, and Thames Water. 6p harder at £11.66.

Among the losers are Smith-Kline Beecham, 23/4p higher at 842p, HSBC, 9p off at £16.39. Shell, 74p firmer at 373p, and Cable & Wireless. 914p better at 74614p.

"Our preferred stocks are drawn from the pool of companies benefiting from earnings clarity, strong balance sheets and robust cash flows," says Jeremy Batstone, head of research at NatWest.

Share prices generally fin-ished the last full working day of 1999 on a firm note, but failed to hold their best levels. The FTSE 100 index soared more than 100 points in early trading - coming to within 30 points of the 6,000 level - anticipating a firm start to proceedings on Wall Street.

In the event the index finished 74.3 points up at 5,941.5, with the best gains seen among the leaders. A meagre 286 million shares changed dex 30.7 up at 4,843.5. Trading conditions

weak with rises among blue chips masking stock shortages, high levels of absenteeism among traders and investors, and futures-related activity. GEC continued to attract

speculative support with the price finishing 81/5p higher at

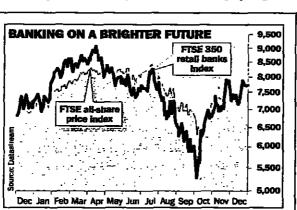


Pierre Bonelli, chief executive, saw shares of Sema plunge after a series of rogue trades. Sema ended up 2p at 591p

549%p. Word circulating in the Square Mile suggests the defence electronics giant has whittled down the number of potential suitors to four. They are said to include British Aerospace. Thomson-CSF of France and the two US companies Lockheed Martin and Grumman Northrop.

GEC also features among nine leading British blue chips

to be included in five new European indices being formed to coincide with the introduction of the single currency. Others on the list include Lloyds TSB. BP, BT, Prudential Corporation, up 10p at 918p, Marks & Spencer, 51/p dearer at 413/p. Diageo, 34p better at 705p. and Royal & SunAlliance, 14p



BANKING shares were marked higher, encouraged by the prospect of increased home loan business next year if rates drop

Abbey National rose 24p to £12.99. NatWest Bank, to 8624p, and Standard Chartered 10p to 694p.

Some investors are also finished business being concluded on the corporate front. Surely Barclays, up 34p to £13.33. has its days as an independent numbered?

Either way, a revival in bid speculation is on the cards. However, Richard Coleman, at Merrill Lynch, is not getting excited about a reviv-

al in mortgage business. "It will be a tough year for the lenders whatever not going to make much difference, conditions remain volatile," he says.

outlook for banks generally remains good, providing the economy slows down gradually and does not suf-fer a hard landing.

touch 45lp before rallying to finish 2p up on the day at 59lp after a series of rogue trades went through on the ticker. fine of 4,32l shares did the damage having gone through
at the 451p level. That com-
pares with the two previous
trades executed at 485p and
trades executed at 485p and 550p. It shows the sort of vola-
tility that investors are being
forced to endure, especially
among leading companies.
among Raung Companies.
INCOCVACED TERMON AS to

ucasVarity firmed 4p to 202p after buying back a total of 2.25 million of its own shares at almost 200p each. Cazenove, the company's own broker, did the business.

Hays continued to benefit from a series of recent meetings with brokers, adding 230 to 506p, while GKN climbed 42p to 814p as some pundits took the view that 1999 will be a better year for manufactur-

ers as the pound loses ground. One of the biggest falls was seen in Trafficmaster, down 2Ip to 5321/sp. A report suggests the group's newly developed car anti-theft device was notentially dangerous. As England's cricketing he-

roes were wiping the smile off Australian faces, shares of The Television Corporation climbed 15p to 235p. It has being awarded the contract to produce Channel 4's test and county cricket programming from the 1999 season.

Galaxy Media. up 15p to 76!4p, in also getting in on the act by bidding for the cricket World Cup television rights. Word is the group may take up its option to buy Sports News Group and use it as a springboard to make a £100 million offer to the International Cricket Council to control television coverage.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices

were squeezed higher in tradi-tional year-end trading. But they were unable to hold their best levels of the day. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished 25p dearer at £118.67. Turnover was again low with just 8,000 contracts completed. Among conventional issues. Treasury 8 per cent while among shorter-dated issues. Treasury 7 per cent 2002
was 10p firmer at £107.55.

NEW YORK: Blue chip shares recover ing trading, s strong consum port. At mid Jones industri up 61.27 points

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	FTSE 100	5941 5 (+74.3) 8843 5 (±30.7)
	FTSE 350	2749.08 (+ 14.70) 2693.98 (+ 30.24) 2748.74 (+28.49)
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BAOKS		ic environment were com- mendably accurate.
POSES:		Inflation was weaker than Tempus forecast but the col-
Stock Close Abbey210 Superscape VR191 Whitehead Manut; 209'; Total Systems†57'; SSI 1.40	Ching Ching + 35 + 20 + 30 + 18 + 30 + 17 + 15 + 15 + 15 + 11	umn was right to suggest that base rates would rise in 1998 before falling later in the year

OUTER	CHIESE.	UL ST	Annia a
Abbey	.210	+ 35 ~	+ 20.0
Superscape VR	.191	+ 30	+ 18.6
Whitehead Manny	2091>	+ 3012	+ 17.0
Total Systems	571	+ 75	+ 15.0
SR		+ 1512	+ 11.6
PS0		+ 30	+ 93
Dolohi	255	+ 2312	+ 7.0
Delphiimpala Plal	7971	+ 50	
Coormol Communication	1001	+ 11	
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Fransi Dual Cp		+ 10	
GKN	.814	+ 42	+ 5.4
Schroders NV			
Ultraframe†	.29112		+ 5.4
Photobilion t	.251 \	+ 125	+ 52
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Sinciair Mort	1111;	+ 512	+	5.1
Sytner	_,164'2	+ 8	+	5,1
Sytner	_784%	+ 37½	+	5.0
Britannic	1300	+ 60	÷	4.8
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FALLS:	- :			
Stock	Closa	Ching	Ct	ng%
Stock Phonelink	26'2	- 5	_	15.8
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Parity	542'2	- 1712	-	3.1
Phomson Corp	1401'z	- 34'4	-	2.3
Baves DM50	24023	- 467e		1.B I

Bad bunch not helped by dangerous months MARK TWAIN could have THINGS CAN ONLY GET BETTER

been writing about 1998 when he observed, with his usual cynical wisdom, that October is one of the "peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks. Other dangerous months", he continued, "are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August and February.

August and September of this last year were especially tricky. That was when the largest chunks were lopped off share prices in a mad sumer of volatility. But investors' feelings of precariousness pervaded throughout the 12

That 1998 was a nervewracking year for investors is beyond doubt, but the leading indices look like they will end the year a good deal stronger than where they

e FTSE is up 14 per cent. TSE all share index is 12 cent to the good and in US the S&P 500 index is ncredible 26 per cent d. Even investors in Jawhere the Nikkei Dow down 9 per cent in actual is, washed their faces help from currency lation effects. s galling, therefore, to re-

fore falling later in the year_ below 6.75 per cent. (Base: rates climbed from 7.25 percent to 7.5 per cent and stand at 6.5 per cent now.) Tempus was also right to

1220 218% -18% 881p 15% 161½p FISE AS Share

year El bought DM2.96 and has fallen to about DM2.81.) in other words - weasel words admittedly — the logic behind the selections was only let down by the selections themselves

None of the six Tempus new year tips for 1998 ended the year in the black and all underperformed the benchmark FTSE all-share index. Laporte, the chemicals concern headed by Jim Leng. was the worst of the bad bunch. All quoted chemicals companies fell deeply out of favour, but it is small comfort that Laporte, down 30 per cent on the year, did slightly better than the sector-average, which was down 35 per

Next, the fashion retailer, fell 28 per cent or 2061:p over the 12 months. A March profits warning, when Next owned up to stock mistakes - did the damage and the shares never really recovered. Next also struggled against a general weakening consumer expenditure. Shares among quoted shop-keepers declined 8 per cent on

average.

Billion, the South African mining concern that floated on the London market in July 1997, fell 22 per cent or 34p in 1998. Starting the year at 156p the shares were already well below the float price of 220p but they stand at 122p today. Doubts about falling metal foresee that sterling would prices shook the share and weaken. (At the start of the further weakness came because of a big stock overhang for much of the year. A plus point, however, is that Billiton closed yesterday significantly up on its 99p low for

the year. Bass was one of a large number of companies - big and small - that fell victim to a slowdown in consumer expenditure. The wet summer and the slow trading that accompanied the World Cup-led to a profits warning. A product recall on the brewing side knocked sentiment fur-

Tempus showed some schizophrenic tendencies by anticipating Asian troubles while at the same time suggesting investors get some exposure to the possibility of recovery. Some schizophrenia shares — to use kinder semantics, the strategy is called hedging. But Tempus did not profit from its recommenda-tion of Foreign & Colonial Pa-

cific Investment Trust. The best that can be said of F&C Pacific is that the share fell a good deal less than many might think, after the horror stories that have emanated from that part of the world. It lost only 7 per cent.

The best performer of the Tempus tips was Beazer, the housebuilder. The reasoning for picking Beazer was impeccable. Falling interest rates should have stimulated demand for houses; Beazer, with scant exposure in London and the South East should have been insulated. from the fall in land prices. which was concentrated there. In common with other housebuilders. Beazer shares also looked cheap, and having been hammered hard in due for a bounce.
Unfortunately no end of

shoulds count for anything in the share race game. Beazer ended 1998 down 5 per cent.
Not discouraged by its bad
year, and blessed with the
benefit of experience. Tempus will publish tips for 1999 on Saturday.

1922. — 2022. —



er at £107.55. DRK: Blue chip red in late morn-spurred on by a spurred confidence redday the Dow rial average was	Danka Be Sys	
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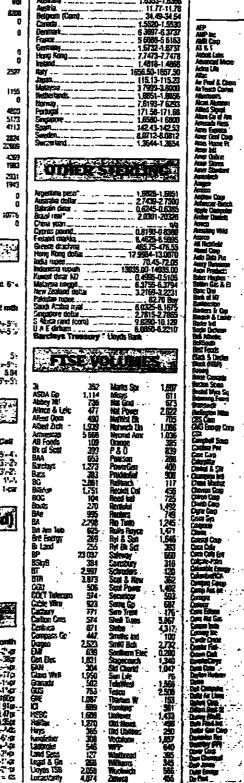
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fies, the need for expansiondustrial recession intensi-

ary measures in next year's Budg-

Budget five months ahead. The Chancellor was, of course, quite right not to trim his expendi-

ture plans. It would be perverse to

worsen the recession by raising taxes or cutting expenditure in order to

keep down public borrowing. The need is to maintain or increase de-

mand, not to reduce it. The Treas-

ury should be ready to take meas-

ures such as temporary tax conces-

sions to stimulate business invest-

ment or consumer spending or speed up public investment projects.

Gordon Brown's presentational

problem is that by his emphasis on

"fiscal prudence", he has put him-self in an embarrassingly inappro-priate stance when the threat of a se-

rious recession calls for an expan-

sionary budgetary policy. The Gov-

Time for Gordon to divorce prudence

et becomes increasingly probable.

The pre-Budget report, and subsequent discussion of it, now have ernment may feel that it has had enough marital difficulties already, a strange air of unreality; although in a rapidly changing situation it but it really is time Gordon divorced would have been premature to take any final decisions on the prudence - or at least they should have a temporary separation.
The uncertain business outlook

is already prompting companies to hold back on starting new investment projects. The latest CBI and BCC surveys show investment intentions down at the levels of the last recession, and (contrary to the Treasury's forecast) a fail in business investment next year seems highly probable. If conditions deteriorate, merely reducing interest rates will only have a limited effect in counteracting the fall in demand. In so far as reductions in interest rates lower the exchange rate, this would certainly help. However, business investment and consumer spending are not likely to be stimulated to any great extent by cutting interest rates,

and in time of recession, banks are

John Grieve Smith says that there is a clear need for expansionary measures in the Budget

likely to be more cautious when it comes to lending to business. Given that monetary policy alone is un-likely to be sufficient to maintain demand, the Chancellor will need to increase public expenditure or n taxes to do so.

The belief that the recession can be countered merely by cutting interest rates is even more unrealistic for the EMU countries where rates are already relatively low. However, they face the additional difficulty that the so-called "growth and stability pact" originating from the last German Government, limits their ability to run budget deficits, unless they are in serious recession. Hopefully the new FrancoThe Chancellor has made things difficult for himself by proclaiming the Golden Rule that revenue and current (as opposed to capital) expenditure should balance over "the business cycle". There is no neat, regular cycle: the pluses and minuses do not neces-

Moreover, it is always danger-ous to proclaim rigid rules of this kind when future developments can never be accurately foreseen. The Maastricht budgetary conditions should have rammed this lesson home.

sarily cancel out.

What, then, would be the most appropriate measures to stimulate rand? As iar as public expenditure is concerned, additional pub-

the timing of such projects. It can take at least two years to evolve, approve, design and place contracts for an investment project. Making any speedy impact on demand, depends on giving the godate. There are many essential ahead to projects that are ready, or projects to be done and increasing nearly ready, for implementation. it is therefore essential that the Chancellor should alert departinvestment expenditure in a recession does not necessarily imply ments and local authorities to the any commitment to a continuing stream of projects at this level: possibility of early starts if the rewhereas any increase in current excession deepens, and to encourage penditure on, say, health or educathem to press ahead with tion is difficult to reverse when the preparing possible projects well in recession comes to an end. Expendadvance. iture on benefits comes somewhere

in between, in that it would, for

example, be possible to give pen-

sioners, say, a one-off bonus to

boost purchasing power, but gener-

ally speaking, any increase in bene-fits is unlikely to be reversible.

In regarding public investment as a prime candidate, however, it

The other route open to the Chancellor to stimulate demand is by temporary tax concessions, particularly measures that would stimulate business investment; for example, more generous depreciation provisions. In the past, such concessions have had a marked ef-

for only a limited time. Concessions to boost consumer demand could, in principle, take the form of either cuts in indirect taxes, such as VAT, or direct taxes, such as income tax. Cuts in indirect taxes have the advantage that they can be made at any time in the taxyear, but the disadvantage is that reversing the cuts when the economy picks up will stimulate price increases at just the wrong moment. Income tax adjustments are easier to reverse, particularly the widths of bands at different tax rates, because people are used to annual changes. One other possible instrument is to vary social insurance contributions temporarily — a measure envisaged as long ago as the 1944 White Paper on Employment Policy.

These are the kind of measures the Chancellor should be consider-ing in drawing up his Budget. The business community and all those whose jobs are at stake desperately need reassurance that the Government is not going to sit idly by and let events run their course, but will adjust their fiscal policy to meet

Lairds fear effects of first move by Scottish land reformers

explains the background to proposals that

Fraser Nelson

could lead to radical change

hree years ago a Ger-man artist called Marlin Maruma was looking for a piece of real estate to share with his girlfriend. They fancied something a bit different and got in touch with Fahad Vladi, an Iranian land agent who had a few contacts. They were not disappointed. "For the price of a shabby London studio flat," he promised. "I can get you a beautiful island you wouldn't believe." This is the "Highland prob-

lem", and it dates back centuries. Since the Clearances, Scot-land has been divided into astonishingly large chamks that can be freely bought and sold and left to degenerate into a de-populated wilderness.

Good lairds have invested, and kept some economic life alive. But the roll call of bad lairds is long and continually undated. Herr Maruma suc ceeded in buying the island of Eigg, complete with 68 islanders, for £1.6 million, only to pull out after having failed to deliver a penny of the £15 million.

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investment that he promised. This summer Stephen Hinchliffe bought the nearby Knoy-dart Peninsula while he was still being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office after the collanse of his Facia shoe retail empire. He lost Knoydart before being arrested over the separate problems at Facia.

The list goes on, but what can be done? Next week the Scottish Office will lay its solutions on the table, blueprints to what is being billed as the biggest shake-up in land ownership laws since the Middle Ages.

Everyone from the lowliest crofter to the highest-ranking aristocrat is agreed that Herr Maruma and Mr Hinchliffe have been perfect examples of unpopular landlords: but would it take a revolution or a few well-aimed reforms to keep the bad lairds away?

The feelings of Brian Wilson, Labour's Trade Minister, are well known. When Eigg's islanders collected £1.5 million to buy the island for themselves last year he told them they had "lit a candle" that would light the flame of free dom all over Scotland.

"Private landlordism has never been the solution to the Highland problem," he told them. "It has been the source of the Highland problem for

far, far too long." Scottish landowners become distinctly unnerved when they hear words like this coming from high-ranking government ministers. To them, this sounds like a "property is theft" mantra, suggesting that



Margaret Paterson was among the people of Eigg who celebrated after buying their independence when they paid £1.5 million for the island last year

have nothing to fear from land

reform," said Rob Gibson, an

SNP national executive mem-

ber who has been working on

the subject for years. "Our con-

cern is not who uses the land:

One of his pet hates is "sub-

sidy junkies", and the name

Mohamed Al Fayed brings a

frown to his face. The laird of

Harrods owns two Highland

estates, and has applied for

£2.2 million of subsidy to plant

He had been popular with

the local crofters after buying

football strips for the entire

school (easy task: there were 12

of them), but they now fear

that the new trees will soak up

keeping away salmon and the

ying Americans who

streams that feed the river

trees on barren hills.

it's how the land is used."

a purge of private landowners will be the first duty of the Scottish parliament.

Happily for them, Mr Wilson does not have a seat on the Land Reform Policy Group, which has been hammering out a blueprint since October last year. It is chaired by Lord el. Scottish Minister for Agriculture: his conclusions will be published on Tuesday and offered to the Scottish partiament when it convenes in July. The centrepiece is expected to

be a new Land Fund to help communities like the Eigg islanders to finance buyouts. There has also been talk of a compulsory right to buy, so a community could wrest land from the laird whenever they get the cash together. Already, the lairds scent a nasty political odour that could change their way of life for ever.

Take, for example, Lord Robert Mercer Nairne. His ancestors have owned and managed a 3,700-acre Perthshire estate since the year 1162. He is quick to distance himself from the notorious lairds, and makes no secret of the money that his estate generates: an £84,000 profit this year from sales of £1.04 million.

But he believes that Lord Sewel could accidentally poison the work done by good landowners in the hope of kill-

ing off a few nasty weeds.

The LRPG is proposing to redesign communities bureaucratic edict." he said. This is the sort of thing which, quite rightly, appalled us about the Communist and Fascist states. I cannot believe the LRPG mean these things, but the road to Hell is paved

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TOP 20 ARISTOCRATIC LANDOWNERS IN SCOTLAND

with good intentions. There is undoubtedly a real problem in Scotland when estates which include communities can be bought and sold and run without the communities themselves having any direct involvement. It is a problem, l think, which has coloured a lot of the LRPG's thinking."

The Scottish Landowners Federation, which represents 80 per cent of lairds, is certainly worried, and has hired a lobbying consultancy. But even the Scottish National Party, which prides itself as the most vociferous campaigner for land reform, says it has no interest in the scalp of Lord Mercer Naime or any of the 20 aristocrats who control 1.7 million acres of 19-million acre

"Good landowners will

the case of Terry Wogan, who decided to plant hundreds of thousands of trees bordering what are now Mr Al Fayed's estates, benefiting from tax breaks and subsidies along the way.

Mr Gibson argues, quite simply, that rich folk don't need grants. "There are some people who shamelessly exploit the state subsidy system." he said. "I would arrange things so rich landowners do not receive subsidy unless they could show us how much money they make from their estates, and the balance of their offshore bank accounts. Then we'd decide."

So will Lord Sewel take him up on this challenge? His group is considering levying a form of council tax on forestry and sporting estates; something that would have hit the likes of Terry Wogan quite hard and raise £4 million a year.

But landowners have semithreatened to stop investment if their tax breaks are removed. They can expect to be let off the hook next week, if the LRPG sticks to its September assessment on the reforms: "not vet: needs more study".

In fact, the worst fate that will befall landowners is being fully identified. Amazingly, there is no easily accessible record of who owns Scottish estates; it is often said that they are Britain's answer to Swiss bank accounts.

Landowners themselves turn to Who Owns Scotland, Andy Wightman, an expert in land registration, set out to answer the unresolved question in this 1996 book, but managed to acpay to fish for it. Then there is count for only 69.7 per cent of the country after being blanked by 110 landowners. On Tuesday Lord Sewel is expected to recommend a computerised collation of all available information in the hope of

finding out who owns the 30.3

per cent of Scotland that is apparently unaccounted for. Even the Scottish Landowners Federation supports this. Andrew Dingwall-Fordyce, its convener, said: "I would very much like to see a good register of land ownership: quite often we don't have information about our own members. It is wrong that landowners should hide hehind family trusts."

ideally, their identities would be made public before a bid closed. Mr Hinchliffe is understood to have heard about Knovdart through a chum on the board of Sheffield United: Herr Maruma learned of Eigg

through Fahad Vladi. The policy group is likely to demand that all land sales are publicly advertised for at least a month before offers close. If the community would like to - using advice and cash provided by the Land Fund the offer period would be extended for another month and it could be given first refusal. If the pace of political change

in Scotland continues, these

reforms could be law by the autumn. But this is a system of evolution; existing should have little to fear from agreeing to a voluntary code of conduct and having their names published. On Tuesday the target will be the likes of Herr Maruma and Mr Hinchliffe. From next Christmas, they may have to settle for that shabby London studio flat.

Birth of more sophisticated European bond market

Richard Miles on investment banking and the single currency

ou might expect Kevin Moore, head of foreign exchange trading at Barclays Capital, to be at the forefront of the euro conversion, but you would be wrong. Mr Moore, pictured, will be almost 6,000 miles away when the first financial transaction in euros is conducted on New Year's Day.

"The first quote in euros will probably take place in Tokyo," he says, "because it is the only major market open on the day. Our first real chance to trade in the new currency won't come until January 4. Markets are likely to be confused for the first few days, anyway."

But the advent of the euro has brought considerable change to the foreign ex-Barclays Capital and other investment banks. Many houses have pared the number of dealers in expectation of lower volumes when the

of 11 currencies becomes wholesale trade of just one. next month, moneys

wholesale trade

passing via the banking system between companies in the 11 participating countries will be in euros. A German company will still be able to transact in marks on its home turf but the inter-Euronean flows will almost certainly be in the common currency. "As far as international

trade goes, such as sterling against the US dollar, volumes will be unaffected, but inter-European flows of money are going to decrease dramatically," says Mr Moore. "Our business is doing quite well this year, but next year we expect to see some decrease in money flows."

The fixed-income departments of investment banks have suffered worse cutbacks ahead of the convergence of the II sovereign debt markets. Seeking higher returns from Italian state bonds as opposed to the safety of German government debt will, in theory at least, disappear. But while interest rates may be much the same, the risks will not. Bonds will still be judged on the creditworthiness of the issuer.

Mr Moore believes that convergence will lead to greater depth in the European bond market, which in turn should produce greater sophistication. Take the high-yield market, known in some circles as junk bonds. In the US, the market is worth some hun-dreds of billions of dollars. while in Europe it is still very much a fledgeling business.

The euro debt market has the potential to rival the US. If you look at the US market, it is highly developed and, depend-

> cess of the euro, a similar type of market could evolve on lantic." On a more

> symbolic note, Mr Moore points out that the euro will oust sterling to become one of the top three reerve currencies along with the US dollar and

> > Mr Moore ex-



tion in the currency markets from January 4, with the euro as the target. Sterling could be

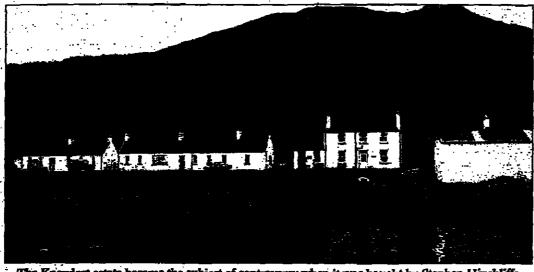
the natural vehicle for such speculative flows, although neither the British Government nor exporters will appreciate a stronger pound. "Sterline will find its own level eventually, perhaps at the equivalent of 2.60 and 2.70 against the mark." he suggests. Plenty of intervention by the

European Central Bank Dould also be on the cards if the euro starts sliding against other currencies under the onslaught of the speculators. "There will be a lot of intervention ... to ensure a steady exchange rate between the euro and US dollar." Not that - expressing a purely personal view - Mr Moore sees any long-term

prospects in euro trades, since he is convinced that monetary union will collapse, maybe even before the UK enters. "It is a political ambition, rather than an economic issue."



Al Fayed: wants £2.2 million of subsidy



The Knoydart estate became the subject of controversy when it was bought by Stephen Hinchliffe

good to be true

are markers appeared 100



Wogan: benefited from tax breaks

Notice to Borrowers

The Portman Building Society announces changes to its standard variable mortgage interest rate for new and existing borrowers with effect from and including 2 January 1999, as follows:-

- Résidential property standard variable mortgage rate reduced by 0.50% gross from 8.10% to 7.60%.
- ▲ Portman Mortgage Services Limited standard vanable mortgage rate reduced by 0.50% gross from 8.10% to 7.60%.
- A Personal Loan Base Rate for loans regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974 reduced by 0.60% gross from 10.50% to 9.90%.
- ▲ Commercial property standard variable mortgage rate : reduced by 0.50% gross from 10.00% to 9.50%.

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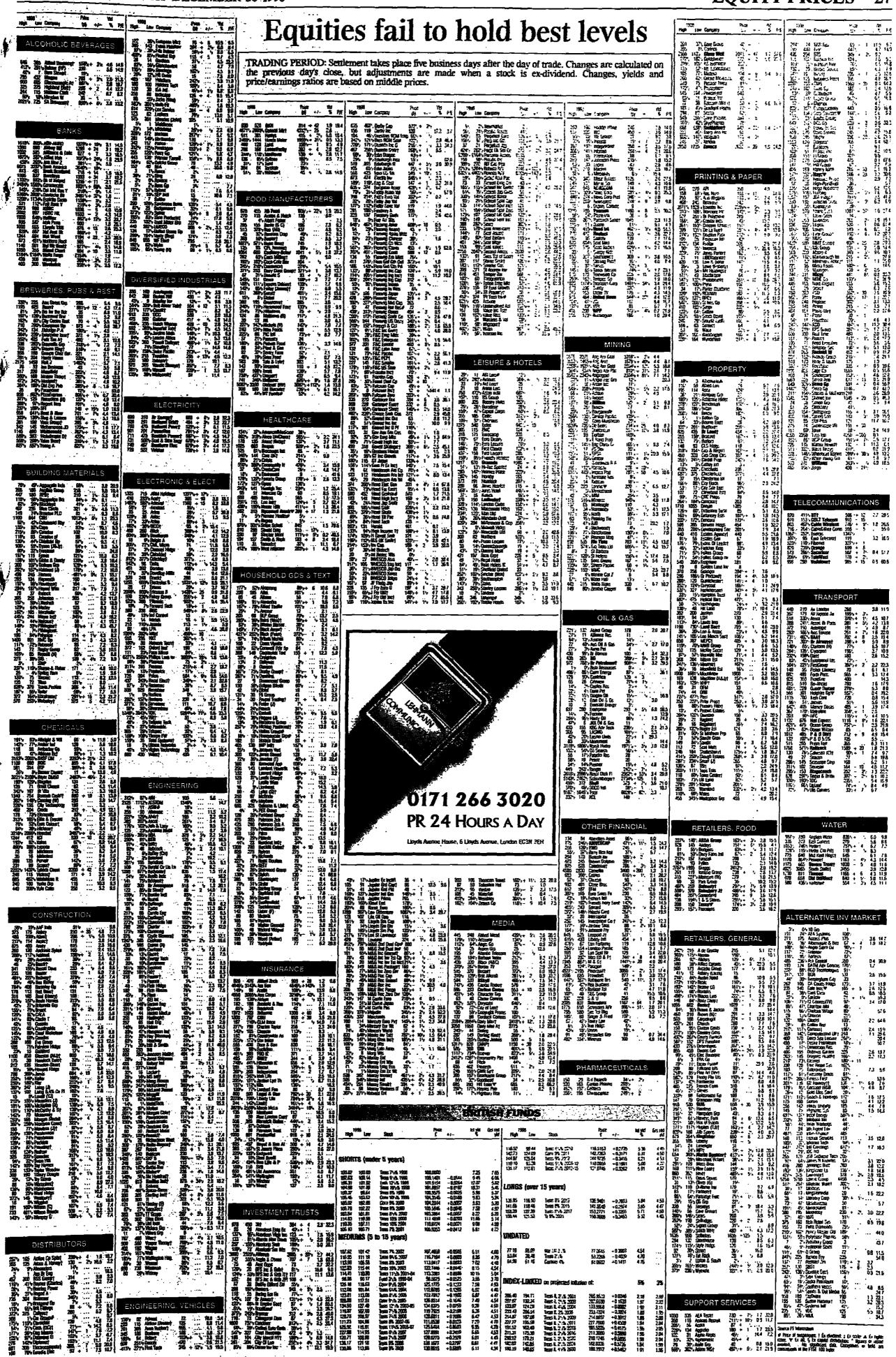
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Give me some space

Why move house when you could just clear out your clutter? Rachel Kelly learns how

and with it the resolution of thousands of property owners to throw out all the unwanted clutter from their homes. Now that recession has

made trading up and easy profits a distant memory, people forced to stay put will have even more need for a clear-out. Sue Anderson, from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, esti-mates that there will be about 1.4 million house moves this year, compared with two million at the height of the property boom in the late 1980s.

Add to this the vogue for all things minimalist, trumpeted in a hundred interior decor magazines and television programmes, and the post-Christmas desire to get rid of all that wrapping paper and general mess, and you have a nation in the mood for a clear-up.

Enter space guru Dawna Walter. Tidy homes are her business — and nothing, she says, focuses people's minds on the task of tidying better than the aftermath of Christmas. Every January hordes descend on her Chelsea shop. The Holding Company, for see-through stacking boxes, rattan baskets and canvas under-bed storage drawers.

As an experiment, Ms Walter kindly agreed to cast her space-saving eye over my cluttered bedroom and to suggest improvements. In America there are "closet consultants" who can be hired for about El00 an hour; such creatures do not yet exist here, although the success of The Holding Company suggests that they mav arrive soon.

My two cupboards - one supposedly for suits, jackets and dresses: the other for jumpers, T-shirts, underwear and other bits and bobs, although the reality was a muddle - were only averagely cha-

According to Ms Walter, an American, the British have a



Disorder rules in the Kelly clothes cupboard, and a delighted Rachel and Dawna (right) after the bedroom makeover

predilection for hoarding clut-ter — possibly a legacy handed down by the thrifty generation that remembered rationing. But in an age of plentiful manutactured goods and clothes, it makes no sense to take up expensive square footage with objects that you never use.

My mistakes were classic. Wire coat hangers were ruining the cut of my jackets. The plastic wrappers from the drycleaning shop were in danger of staining fabrics. There was so much in each cupboard that it was impossible to find anything without hunting. The answer is to split your

wardrobe into winter and summer items. "Pack away summer clothes where they can breathe," says Ms Walter. Don't pile shoes in a box (mine were under the bed). In fact, hidden at the bottom of

my cupboard were shoe rails that I had never noticed under the detritus which had accumulated. If you are on a budget, keep the original shoeboxes - or buy see-through stacking

e then remarked on the amazing number of nearidentical suits that I have collected. Only by ruthlessly revealing a wardrobe's contents do you realise your buying patterns. This will make you a better shopper." Ms Walter assured me. 'Now you can see what you really need."

Out went anything that was too small. "You really have to be honest with yourself," says Ms Walter. Out went flouncy, dated, 1980s styles. Out went anything beyond repair.

My cupboard was organised with short items hanging at one end, long ones at the other, all colour-coded. Skirts were hung on special hangers with room for four. Metal hangers were binned.

For the first time there was a clear distinction between the contents of the two cupboards. The other now holds tops. jumpers, belts, socks, tights and knickers, all colour-coded and stored in see-through plas-tic shoeboxes (£3.95).

I estimate that removing the need to hunt for clothes has saved me about ten minutes every morning. And I no long-er wear near-identical outlits

Ms Walter's approach can be extended to any room. In the bathroom she uses baskets to group items together - hair products, face products, bath oils and contact lens bits and bobs. In the living room the same principle is applied to CDs, books and photographs.

As she rightly said, editing my life was cathartic. And others clearly feel the same way. A space-saving shop opened this year in Manchester, others are planned for Leeds. Newcastle and Glasgow. A few upmarket developers, awakening to the importance of storage, are even including US-style walk-in cupboards in their schemes. And now I must start on that diet ...

■ The Holding Company, 241-245 Kings Road: London SW3 (017)-352 (600). The Charities Aid Foundation pub-lishes a book called Waste Not, which lists everything that UK char-ities can recycle, for £7.95 (to order ring 01403 710851). Organised Living, by Dawna Wal-ter and Helen Chislett, is pub-lished by Conran Octopus, £18.99.

Don't let Lego and dolls rule your life

tripped over a plastic digger in the hall, trod in my stockinged foot on a piece of Lego glued to the carpet with ap-ple juice, then limped across an obstacle course of dismembered toys, only to sit on a heavily armed Action Man concealed in the sofa.

Why do we allow our children's toys to rule our lives? Why, come to that, do children have so many toys these days? One removal man said that when he hears that a client has children, he calculates a third of the space in the van to be taken up with toys. After babysitting for a young mother recently and spending the evening in a newly decorated sitting room, complete with matching pelmet and curtains, staring at a large blue plastic potty by the fire, I decided to get serious about storage.

"Storage has become something of a spiritual quest in our consumer society." says Joanna Copestick, the author of The Family Home. Good storage equals organisation, and without that we are lost. When you move into a new home, "storage, storage, storage" is the mantra that should replace "location, location, loca-

The first step to organising a modern living space with children is contain-ment. Ms Copestick is convinced that children's things should not be allowed to

Jisiting a friend who Chuck those the other day, I Teletubbies in a toybox, says Emma Mahoney

quiet areas, such as the parents' bedroom, should be created. 'The bedroom is an obvious retreat," she says. "Not only is it one of the few rooms where adult belongings predominate, but the decoration can be as selfindulgent as you like." Containment is also about

sweeping out of sight all chil-dren's toys at bedtime. One-suggestion is to use a wooden toybox in the sitting room, where it will blend in with other furniture. Camilla Holland, the owner of Endless Effects, paints furniture and finds toyboxes one of her most popular items. "My most recent commission was a toybox painted with animals that doubles as

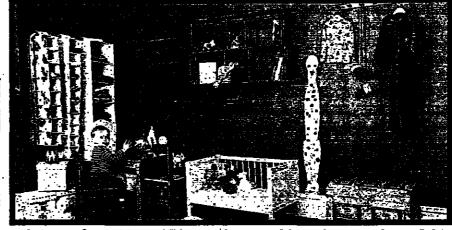
a coffee table," she says.

Another of Ms Holland's popular pieces of children's furniture is a new puie linen press that she converts into a small wardrobe. "It has a flat top, so boxes can go on top. And I usually remove a shelf to put in a child's hanging rail," she says. Converting adult furniture for children's needs is a clever financompromise. Childsized furniture is compact but has a limited lifespan. A. standard-sized chest of drawers, however, will last from

There is little excuse for not reorganising a child's room with storage in mind when so many firms do mail or-der. The latest catalogues from Habitat, McCord, The Pier, Dragons of Walton Street and the Hill Toy Company show everything from Pool Bear hooks to zebra chairs being offered for de-livery. There is one exception - Ikea. Those who can stomach the queues ('never attempt it on a Saturday morning," dichards say) will be rewarded with the biggest and best range of chil-dren's furniture available.

Family life has changed in the space of a generation. "Many families are now single-parent and many life-long family relationships are formed outside marriage." says Ms Copestick.
"Stepchildren and siblings often coexist happily in a loose arrangement of weekend sleepovers." Working patterns have changed too. with more people working at least part of the time from home. All this means that rooms are expected to be multifunctional — and careful clutter control, particular-ly of children's things, is the

0181-208 5600: Dragons of Wal-ton Street 0171-589 3795: The Hill Toy Company 0870-670 1248: Habitat 0615 334433: Mo-Cord 0870-908 7020; Endless Ef-fects 0181-879 3394: Storage by Dragons nah Hall 8 Barbara Wess E12.99 Dorling Kindersley. Th Family Home by Joanna Cope stick, E25, Conran Octopus



The secret of organising a child's room is storage. Mail-order companies can help

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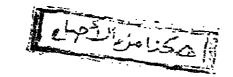
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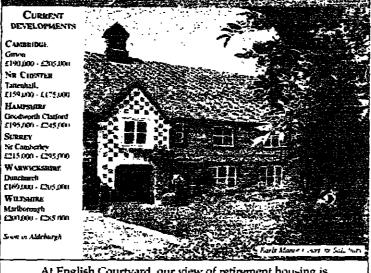
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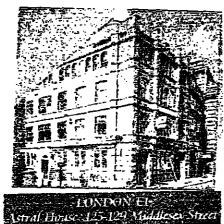
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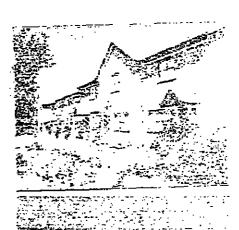
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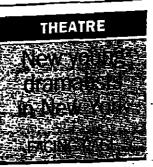
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WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London Phone venue for ticket availability

PIRATES OF PENZANCE: 17xe D'Oyly Carle Company comes to the West End bringing Gilbert and Sullivan's joylul adventures with

19 (0171-494 5041). QUATRE MAINS: Astonishing dance for hands created by Andrew Dawson, creator of Thunderbirds FAB and Josef Houben, director for The Bight Chee

Right Size. Lyric Studio, W5 (0181-741 2311). CHICAGO: Maria Friedman injects new blood into the hit revival of Kander and Ebb's musical about musder and Ebbe sime. Adelphi (0171-344 0055). (2)

DICK BARTON SPECIAL AGENT: Journey back to the 1940s with the lamous old radio theliter, brought to life by Phil Wilmott. Tad Craig directs. Warehouse, Croydon (0181-680 4060). THE GOLEM: David Burt and Gaye Brown star in Sylvia Freedman and Calify Shostak's uplifting new musical about the man-made

monsier who runs arnok. New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022). IESUS MY BOY. Tom Conti in John

Downe's littuily amusing cornedy giving Joseph's side of the story. Apollo, W1 (0171-494 5070). PETER PAN: Justin Salinger in the title role, with David Troughton as Captain Hook, in the return of Fronz Laird's enjoyable production. Olivier, SE1 (0171-452 3000).

THE SNOWMAN: The much-loved Raymond Bnggs characters soar over the audience in Bill Alexander's loyful production. Peacock, WC2 (0171-883 8222). THE KING AND I: Whistle a happy une with Phil Willmott's St Factory production of the teelgood

Rodgers and Hammerster BAC (0171-223 2223). THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF ends in Edward Half's pleasing iC production first seen at

Pit (0171-638 8891). ARABIAN NICHTS: All Baba, Simbad and lesser-known tales adapted and directed by Dominic Cooke for the

Christmas show. Young Vic (0171-928-6363). CINDERIELLA: Neil Bartiett and the Snockheaded Peter team stage a senously wonderful version of Angela Carter's panto. Magic provided by Part Monta. Paul Kieve. Lyric (0181-741 8701/2311).

THE BEST OF TIMES: The Brider Theatre's programme of Jerry Herman songs transfers to the West End. Cast includes Kathryn Evans. Vaudeville (0171-836 9987). INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's

nightmanish take on favourite lainytales. John Crowley directs the mer (0171-369 1732). (5) THE INVENTION OF LOVE: John Wood plays the aged A.E. Housman butting his early self in Torn Sloppard's girtering play. West End transfer for Richard Eyre's production. Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-930 8800) (5)

AMADEUS: Dand Suchet plays Salieri with Michael Sheen as Mozart in Peter Half's stongly cast production of the Shalfer play. Old Vic (0171-928 7616).

WEST SIDE STORY: Alan Johnson' stylish revival of Leonard Bernstein's clessic is a thirmph of detter and lessosterone over the broless Manhattan barney between the Jets seed that Strade: Manhattan barney between the use and the Sharks. Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

Strouse/Chambr to tug at your heartstrings white playing loonle tures on them. Lily Savage is the dastardly orphanage wardness. Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geot! Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

THE APPLE (PG): Fascinating Iranian docu-drame about twin daughters kept imprisoned at home by their parents. Directed by Samira Makhmabat.

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15): Will Smith's lawyer tumbles upon a political conspiracy. Exciting, but accord theliar, with Good THE MIGHTY (PG): Endeaning tale of

two outcast children, one hullding, one cappled, who pool their resources. Peter Chelsom directs

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15): Robin Williams wades through the afterlife trying to find his loved ones Technically dazzling, but sabot by a woolly script. Director, Vine Ward.

CURRENT

THE PRINCE OF SGYPT (U): Splendid aramation, but there's not much for laddles in the biblical story of Moses leading the Israelites to the promised lond Voice talents include Val Rimer and Ralph Fiennes. The directors are Brenda Chapman, Stev Hickner and Simon Wells.

ABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U): Everyone's favounte talking pig face: the torments of the hostile city. Grotesque, misguided sequel to the ing pig laces hit film, With Macda Szubanski Director, George

ON CONNAIT LA CHANSON (PG): Refined relationship comedy, with a marvellous cast and lip-synched snatches of popular songs. Alain Resnats directs Sabine Azema, P Arditi and André Dusoffier

RUSH HOUR (15): LA and Hong Kong cops join forces on a kidn case. Routine fare, enlivened by Asian legend Jackie Chan and

motormouth cornic Chris Tucker. Director, Brett Ratner.

TWILIGHT (15): Down-st-heel private eye (Paul Newman) is lured into a murder mystery. Inconsequential plot, but a wonderful cast. With Gene

THE NEGOTIATOR (15): Police hostage negotiator takes hostages himelf to prove his innocence. Overblown suspense thriller, with Same! L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey. Director, F. Gary Gray.

OUT OF SIGHT (15): Esca convict George Clooney finds himself falling for the federal marshal (Jenniter Lopez) on his tall. Dazzling n of Elmane Lean novel Orector, Steven Soderbergh, TARRY- BACK TO THE

teature, featuring unfrightening, strokeable dinosaurs, and an overt tedious plot. With Peter Horton and Liz Stauber, director, Brett Leonard BLADE (18): Extravagant, jumbled SLAUE (18): Exarvagant, jumped homor fantasy, fun for a time, with Westey Snipes as the vampine-hunting action hero from the pages of Marvel Comics. With Slephen Dorft, Director, Stephen

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18): Terry Gilliam's Indigestible and weamsome version of Hunter S. Thompson's novel about a

MY NAME IS JOE (15): Refor Glasgow alcoholic begins an awkward romance with a healthcare

director Ken Loach. THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG): Jim Correy discovers that his whole life has been caught on camera for TV. Meticulous and intelligent saline, directed by Peter Wer. With Laura

Caste in a new mould

COMEDY: TV's newest Asian star talks to Clive Davis

about Peter Sellers and his other unlikely heroes

funny business, comedy. Especially when the subject is as delicate as race. Johnny Speight, for instance, set out with the best of satirical intentions when he created Till Death Us Do Part. yet found himself cast as a spokesman for the Enoch Powell fan club. In the 1970s, ITV's sitcom Love Thy Neighbour was supposed to illustrate the absurdity of both black and white racism. but its main achievement was to bring "nig-nog" back into the same sting. Meanwhile Peter Sellers had already perfect-ed his caricature of a burnbling, ingratiating Indian in the films The Millionairess and The Party.

For years afterwards it seemed that the only Asian to appear in any comedy programme was some variant on that post-colonial stereotype. But once more times move on. tastes change, and Sellers's old catch-phrase "Goodness gracious me" has returned in a different guise, as the defiantly ironic title of the BBC2 sketch show which has made a star of Sanjeev Bhaskar.

Far from holding a grudge against Sellers, Bhaskar counts him among his prime comic inspirations. Creator of the streetwise Bhangramuffins and Skipinder the Punjabi kangaroo. Bhaskar stages his own stand-up show, The Spiceman Cometh, on the South Bank this weekend. He will also be on the road in February in a touring version of Goodness Gracious Me. winner in the Best Comedy Series

category at the British Comedy Awards earlier this month. Goodness Gracious Me deserves its success. The programme has created an undeniable stir, allowing mainstream audiences a glimpse into a culture that remains largely invisible on television. As Bhaskar himself observes. sitting in a promoter's office in Farringdon, it is hard to believe that the programme arrived on the screen only a matter of months ago. He recalls how last year, before the first shows went on air, he and the other principals - Meera Syal, Kulvinder Ghir and Nina Wadia - had huddled unnoticed in a corner at the BBC's Christmas drinks party before making an early exit. This year was very different. No longer a nobody, Bhaskar

had a chance to mingle with

another of his role models, one of the burdens that black Dave Allen. Bhaskar's parents were born in what is now Pakistan but moved to Delhi after Partition before emigrating to Brit-

ain. Now 34, he was raised in Hounslow, West London, and like all good Asian boys initially seemed destined to enjoy a respectable career — in his case in marketing. A devotee of Bond films and Bollywood epics, he acquired a taste for performing at college, working out routines with his friend Nitin Sawhney - now better known as a musician than a comedian.

Woody Allen and Jewish humour appeal to all of us in the show. There's a definite affinity?

A suit-and-tie job beckoned, but after two years Bhaskar found a niche with Jatinder Verma's theatre company. Tara Arts. He and Sawhney also formed their own comedy duo. Secret Asians, and by 1995 were signed up as part of the original Goodness Gracious Me team on Radio 4.

the show made an immediate impact. drawing in part on what Bhaskar describes as the international humour of the dispossessed". If the label is a touch grandiose, the sharply observed sketches hummed with earthy vitality. One particular favourite - later reprised on TV - was the inspired piece of vindaloo role-reversal which saw a gapple of boozy Indians wreak havoc in an "English" restaurant, brazenmispronouncing the waiters' names and ordering the blandest dishes on the menu. The quality control is not always perfect. The programme

that went out the week after our interview hardly raised a smile in mv household. You also hear the occasional rumble about the humour being "too Punjabi" and failing to represent the rest of the Asian population. Then again, that is or Asian performers invariably have to carry: rather than just being themselves, they are expected to be spokesmen for an entire, amorphous community. No one ever asked why there wasn't a Scotsman in the Monty Python team.

A self-confessed "telly ad-dict" as a child, Bhaskar knows his comedy roots inside out. No advocate of political correctness, he admired Michael Bates's blacked-up indian factorum in It Ain't Half Hot Mum. And since Asian comedy was a rare commodity in his youth - the older generation was too busy putting down roots to bother with frivolities - he often found himself looking to America in-stead. Jackie Mason and Woody Allen head his personal list. Which makes sense, really, when you consider the similarities between Asian and Jewish immigrant experiences — communities driven by the forces of religious custom and economic self-help.

"Most, if not all my influences are Jewish," Bhaskar explains. "In the first series of Goodness Gracious Me I had my dream come true when I did a sketch about a Muslim family where the son converts to Judaism but goes too far

and becomes Woody Allen. "Jewish humour appeals to all of us in the show. We like Neil Simon and the other Sid Caesar writers. There's a definite affinity there. It's about being part of society and yet outside it. Whereas for me, black humour is much more about being on the outside of things."

Although he shares a flat in unfashionable Tooting Broadway, Bhaskar still spends much of his time at his parents' home in Hounslow. In the streets children are liable to throw his "Kiss my chuddies" catch-phrase back in his face. The success of Goodness Gracious Me reflects a new confidence and self-assertion which even he sometimes finds startling. So how do his parents respond to the skits about sex or money-grubbing gurus? Bhaskar grins ruefully at that one. He will find out what they really think, he laughs, on the day when he is cut out of the family inherit-Sanieev Bhaskar is at the Oveen

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GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament. TIM EDEY

Age: 19. Profession: Button accordi-

onist. Come again? "I play the guitar as well and I used to play the piano accordion, but I broke my wrist rollerskating when I was 13 which made it difficult. Then I switched to

the squeeze box." Repertoire? "Traditional Irish music. I ve always been obsessed with everything

Irish." So he hails from the land of Guinness? "Broadstairs in Kent actually, and I don't drink the stuff. But my Mum is from Dublin. All her family play, so I was dragged up

with this music."

Not your average poptastic teenager, then? "My gran-dad used to give me Chieftains albums every birthday and Christmas. At school I never knew the names of any of the pop bands. I respect them all as musicians but I've never been a chibber." Story so far? "I left college at

17 and decided to try to make my living playing. I've just done a two month tour of the Baltic states playing a Riverdance tribute show. I made a CD and I've been sending

that out trying to get work." Where can we see him? "I'm doing run-of-the-mill gigs commuting up to London from Kent and playing with a traditional group called

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toast to the Florodora man

UNSUNG HETOES: In the first of a short series celebrating forgotten figures of 20th-century

arts, Rodne Milnes turns a belated spotlight on the Iritish composer Leslie Stuart

ack in the late 190s, when television togrammes — on inc only broadcast for a few hors each evening, the rest office day was filled with whi I think were called test transitssions, half a dozen or so iros of wide variety to demonstate the wonders of the new ndium. Then as now in this to the box, I sat transfixed, withing them over and over agin (anything rather than word. I remember a speeded-up lim taken from the cab of a sam engine getting from Victor to Brighton in one minute od bits of Massine's Boulue Fantasque and Ashin's Façade (television was, bradly speaking; educationa in

those days).
But the test transmison that riveted me then and rets me still was a little numer called Tell Me Pretty Malen (are there any more at Ime like you?"), performed in sitely Players Theatre fashio all eyes, teeth and winsomens. I can see it now. The tunevas catchy - it has never lenne and never will - and pa of its fascination, which peraps I instinctively realised athe time but certainly did no ra-tionalise until much laterwas that the phrases were unen: they did not fall into nemal eight-bar patterns, buffol-lowed the text, the decorasly flirtatious conversation between clean-limbed boysind gels f there are a few," that-

er replied coyly). The number is of cours he famous double sextette(as they spelt it in those sys) from Florodora and the m-poser was Leslie Stuart. Arch of my misspent youth wade-voted to exploring Victian and Edwardian musical diedies, and especially to firing out more about Stuar he seemed a cut above suchontemporaries as Sidney hes

and Lionel Monckton. Stuart was born in Sthport in 1864 as Thomasar-rett, and therafter operationder more than one name an indication; I always thinly a

certain raffishness. But he was plainly talented: he was appointed organist of the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Salford at the age of 15 and, after occupying the same post at a grand-er church in Manchester, drifted into the rackety world of the theatre. He first won success as a songwriter, and justly so their titles linger on in our collective musical conscious-



Stuart is streets ahead of his contemporaries and marks an advance even on Arthur Sullivan?

ness. Soldiers of the Queen was one of his first hits, in fact the marriage of patriotic words tacked on to a march he had already composed to celebrate the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal (not many people know that). Lily of Laguna is, I think, one of the great songs of the century - everyone knows it, it's an absolutely fabulous tune.
Little Dolly Daydream is al-

most as good, and here we come to a tiny stambling block: they were among many written for the famous "blackand one cannot print what they were collectively known as in a family newspaper.

No such problems with Florodora, Stuart's first musical comedy, premiered in 1899. which ran in the West End for nearly two years and has been much revived. It was as big a success on Broadway the following year, where the Florodora Girls became the equivalent of our Gaiety Girls, and it was also widely staged in Eu-rope. Indeed, it was the biggest international musical smash-bit before The Merry Widow - bigger than HMS Pinafore. I can't tell you what it was about: I've read the synopsis four times now, stone-cold sober, and still can't make head or tail of it. It starts off on the eponymous island in the Philippines where a scent of the same name is manufactured, and mysteriously ends up on a country estate in Wales. I daresay that, as with so many equally impenetrable Handel synopses, it's all perfectly clear in performance.

owever, the music

is easily accessi-

was the first show to have an original cast recording, on a series of 7in discs made in 1900-01 and now on CD (Opal 9835). There are incidental things to be learn: for one, in those days singers were not too concerned with pitch or rhythmical precision - some of them would not get past the audition stage today. And stars stood out young Ada Reeve was one such, dazzlingly witty in two "point" numbers that she speaks for the most part, every now and then throwing in perfectly pitched sung lines as well. Sydney Barraclough was another good singer, who gets a beautiful waltz, In the Shade of the Palm. Then there's Willy Was a Gay Boy, with its saucy whistled refrain. The CD also contains the Broadway version of Tell Me Pretty Maiden — the Florodora Girls sound a preny tough lot - and for once the face" singer Eugene Stratton, London recording is superior.



How good is the music? Tell Me Pretty Maiden is the stand-out. It's interesting to learn that it was one of the few numbers for which Stuart also wrote the words - so that's why the music is shaped by the text. A Sondheim avant la lettre, a Wagner after the event. Stuart knew exactly when to give a number a lift with a modulation or a frisky harmonic sidestep; there are other numbers in Florodora with oddly uneven phrase structures, some scrunchy, decidedly adventurous chromatic progressions, and nice ma-

jor-minor alternations. Stylistically, he is streets ahead of his contemporaries and marks a significant advance even on Sullivan, who was essentially a conservative composer, looking back to Gounod and Donizetti both for inspiration and material to parody.

And in Stuart, certainly in his rhythms, you can hear seeds of early Jerome Kern. who travelled regularly to London to learn what was going on on this side of the pond. Kern, admittedly a far better composer, went on to Show

was born. By all of which I suppose I am suggesting that it would be nice if, instead of endlessly recycling the obvious standards, producers took another look at Stuart, a palpable missing link in the development of the popular musical. Apart from anything else, de-signers could have fun with the frocks - all those tall, hourglass showgirls, padded top and bottom, front and back, huge picture hats and every now and then a glimpse of well-turned ankle.

in the end, Florodora did

money but he liked a drink and he liked to gamble. He went bankrupt in 1915, and the years up to his death in 1928 were spent in provincial music halls playing his own music. None of his seven subsequent shows achieved the success of the first; The New Grove Book of Operas finds his range limited, and remarks that "his rhythmic mannerisms tended to recur. Maybe, but they were good mannerisms.

But to judge from its score, one of them, Havana (1908). might be worth a look (a certain Miss Gladys Cooper was rolled into one - I like it.

in the chorus). Again, the plot is impenetrable, although at least it all happens in the Cuban capital, but there are elaborately worked-out act finales comparatively rare at the time, one smashing waltz song (I'm a Cuban Girl), and one rather good joke. In the last act Lehár's Merry Widow Waltz turns up. but with each phrase turned upside down (try it) until the last, which is the right way up just in case anyone misses the point ("I'm the Merry Widow, you're the gay deceased"). Tribute and pass-off

Gq and ca ch a rising star

OFF-BROADWY: John Donne is at

the centre of stunning piece of theatre, says knedict Nightingale

Metaphysical Poets Dr Johnson deplored theotion of wit as "the discove of occult resemblances in thes apparently unlike" andiccused John Donne andris school of " yoking the moseterogeneous ideas by violee

But nowadays we tend admire what Sam hated: which is a good reason for appreciating Margaret Edson's wryly titled Wit (at the Union Square Theatre). It yokes together Donne scholarship and cancer research and, although it someresemblances a bit violently, it strikes me as the most brilliant yet humane

off-Broadway play on offer in ages. The plot concerns vian Bearing, who has battl her way to the acme of Donustud-ies and the professoriarade uncompresing hard work and disdain; personal attachments. No he is gravely ill with cancer and who should be responde for putting her through apxing a medical regime as operimental science can dete but Jason, who years ago gan Aminus in her notorioly demanding course on lonne? The ultra-pernickety tearcher is now herself a stimen. learning (as she ruefil says) how poems feel whenly are analysed and relising the Donneish paradox of "cure" with side-effects so perful it

makes you ill. Absurdly attired in baseball cap to hide her lidness, acidly eyeing the rusof im-

pertinent doctors and bored technicians, Kathleen Chalfant looks as out of place amid the plastic curtains that swathe the stage as some fierce jungle bird in a locker room. But actually she has much in common with her oncologist. Vivian made Donne her speciality because of the mental challenge, and her analyses of

Death be not Proud and the oth-Wit is er Holy Sonners are maybe more sensitive to the nicete most ties of paradox and punctuation than to the meaning of mortality. Similarrilliant ly, Alec Phoenix's lay of eager, impatient lason is awed by the complexity of cancer but not too interested in the sufferers themselves. Chalfant holds the stage, some-

times trailing a drip, sometimes making excursions into Bearing's past, almost always maintaining the toughness that has marked her academic life. Almost but not quite for, as her pain intensifies, her ironic detachment collapses, and the limitations of her and Jason's intellects become clear: If the author and her leading actress were less astringent, a display of instinctive wisdom from a nurse who would not have scored a D in Bearing's course might seem mawkish, and the scene in which her old teacher settles down to read her a book called The Runaway Buruny even more horribly so. As it is, I have seldom seen the virtues of simplicity more

movingly suggested. Edson is one of several new, young dramatists who have been packing off-Broadway theatres and provoking talk of



Alec Phoenix, Kathleen Chalfant and Paula Pizzi in a seene from Margaret Edson's deeply impressive Wit

Broadway transfers. I cannot quite share the reviewers' enthusiasm for Diana Son's Stop Kiss (Public), a tale of two women who have barely acknowledged their love be-fore a male gay-basher puts one of them in a coma. It is sensitively told and warmly acted, but hasn't the imaginative flair, the quirky observation to rise far above the workaday.

OWEVET, Kenneth Lonergan's This is Our Youth (Second Stage) would smack of originality even if Mark Brokaw's production were unlucky enough to lose one of the most talented young performers in New York. Mark Ruffalo, in chronic disarray from his tufty hair to his frayed trousers, is hilariously slovenly yet touchingly insecure as Warren, who arrives in the tacky apartment of his friend and drug supplier

Dennis with the \$15,000 he has just stolen from his father. Even though the old man is "not a criminal, just in busi-ness with criminals", this adds panic to the characters' everyday chaos and tension to Lonergan's portrait of post-adoles-

Warren uses the loot to fête a girl less than enchanted with his goofy charisma; Mark Rosenthal's Dennis makes ferocious calls to coke-dealers offstage; it is all very funny. but more than funny, because both actors make you see that these losers are the spoilt yet neglected offspring of Manhattan's wealthy winners.

Lonergan's choice of time -1982 — risks giving the impression that the piece has dated. Given the number of moneyed jerks and privileged layabouts you still see shambling about the Upper West Side, I do not

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CHANGING TIMES

Barbarians show they remain an attraction

Barbarians.

By DAVID HANDS

TRADITION held sway at a cold, windswept Welford Road yesterday. The Barbarians were back to their Christmas date, Leicester were back wearing their letters and there was even a pantomime villain in Steve Lander, the referee who cheerfully accepts the good-natured jeers that have come his way from Leicester supporters since he and Neil Back famously fell out at the end of the 1996

That the occasion of the 81st meeting of these clubs was dignified by the attendance of a lestive crowd of 14,750 helped significantly to sustain a game that lapsed too frequently into gives point to the struggles of the Barbarians committee to bring together a XV worthy of

their name. Craig Chalmers, the Scotland fly half whose immaculate goalkicking embellished his side's success — their third in a row — confirmed as much. "It's still a privilege to pull on the jersey, still a pleasare for a Scot to come down here and beat Leicester." he said, observing tartly that

months, has been placed on

the transfer list at his own

request by Sale. Beim, 23, is

said to have personal reasons

for wanting to move from

Manchester and may be wise

to advertise his services now.

ahead of the rush expected at

the end of this season when

all Allied Dunbar Premier-

ship clubs will be reviewing

An all-round sportsman

Beim moved from

who has played international

hockey at junior level and

Gloucester to Sale two years

ago and was one of the few

players from England's sum-

mer tour of the southern hemi-

sphere to feature in the train-

ing squad this season. Beim

played bravely at full back

against New Zealand A in

Hamilton and was capped on

frequently north of the border. matters. An early 12-0 lead young team found international experience drawn from six

Dean Richards, the Leicester team manager, had to balance immediate needs against the preservation of his best players: that his casualties in the first half included Back, Leon Lloyd and Martin Johnson, the captain, was therefore a disappointment, although Richards hopes that all three will be fit when Premiership fixtures resume in mid-January.

When he decided to change his half backs and hooker at the interval, Leicester were always going to struggle. Three of their four tries came with the wind in the first half. A flowing movement in which and Lloyd figured paved the way for a try by Back. Healey's delayed pass gave Lloyd the opportunity to beat the Barbarians cover on the outside but within minutes, both tryscorers had left the field, Back with a muscular spasm and Lloyd after a bang on the head.

He damaged a shoulder in

a tackle by Jonah Lomu in the

second international but re-

covered to play regularly for Sale this season before suffer-

ing a hip injury during train-

Hanley to claim a place on the

game, he is one of the best

wings in the country." John Mitchell, the Sale director of

rugby and England assistant

coach, said, "It will be sad to

lose a player like Tim but I

understand he has been un-

happy for some time and we

his 69 appearances for Sale,

four of them in his eight Pre-

micrship matches this season.

He will hope for the chance to

return to the West Country.

Beim has scored 49 tries in

have agreed to his request.'

When he is on top of his

which allowed Steve

Beim allowed

to take wing

By David Hands

TOM BEIM, one of the 14 the wing against the All

players capped on the wing by Blacks in both internationals

That Leicester played the second half with a XV including only two first-choice players removed something from the occasion, but also helped to level was gradually eroded as a countries too much for them.

> Healey, the Leicester scrum half, launches an attack after his forwards had won possession from a ruck in the traditional holiday fixture yesterday second quarter but could only work Evans over near the posts, whereas Leicester concluded the half with Joiner hitting the line at speed and taking Stark over with him. Even when Stark's cute cross-kick

fell for Miller, Leicester still

had plenty of mileage and

Hamilton gave Stimpson a

f Richard Hill has said it

once — as he did when

Wasps came up on the

rails at Loftus Road on

though they lack for

September, but Bath,

imilar record. Only

Sunday — he has said it a

hundred times: Gloucester

must learn to win away from ngshoim. But it is no

company. Hill's players may

not have won an away Allied

Dunbar Premiership game

since they beat Richmond in

Harlequins, Sale and West

Bedford's is worse. They have

Mitchell and John Gallagher

Hartiepool each have a

lost all eight away games,

which leaves people like Rudolf Straeuli, John

all with substantial

experience in the southern

why one patch of ground

should be so unlike another. It is not as though visits to

London, are so intimidating.

The reverse of the coin is the

clubs that have yet to lose

most English first-division

grounds, particularly in

50-metre run to the line.

fic was mostly one-way as Miller. the Ireland and British Isles flanker, enjoyed himself alongside Massimo Giovanelli, the Italy captain. Even so, it took a blatant error to close the gap. Chalmers charged down an ill-advised clearance by Goode but the referee missed his knock-on and Martin ran through for a try. Barbarians

their Premiership ground

third are the enigmatic

Earthy tones

records this season. Leicester

and Northampton, at the top

of the table, are two, but the

Harlequins — who entertain

Northampton on January 16

All the talk at the Stoop just

now is the fragrant club colours in which the players'

accommodation has been

painted. Unkind souls have

described as pink the away

team dressing room; knowledgeable Harlequins

say it is magenta. On Sunday

there was much debate as to

whether pink (or magenta)

was designed to remove the

opposing team, an opinion

apparently confirmed when

Sale lost. But trust a Kiwi to

bring us back to earth: "l

thought we changed in the

blue dressing-room," John

rugby, said. Presumably

Thierry Lacroix, who has

taken over the mantle of

Mitchell, the Sale director of

aggressive thoughts from the

ly making the half-break for the leggy Grimes to cross from 30 metres.

Just to make sure that Leicester would not haul themselves back. Chalmers kicked the only penalty attempt of the match with six minutes remaining. He need not have worried, for in injury time

What a difference an away day makes

SCORERS: Lelosster: Tries: Back (9min), Lloyd (15), Joiner (40), Strapoon (49). Con-versions: Strapoon 2. Barbarrians: Tries: Evans (35), Miller (45), Marin (56), Gonnes (45), Maccocke (84), Convensions: Chalm-ses 5 Pensity goel: Chalmess (74)

LEICESTER: T Stimpton; L Licyd (rep. M

BARBARIANS: 1. Crisenele (Cova and Argentine); D Stark (Simpow Cale nians and Scotland; egg. P Davil Hentey, 72), S Hastings (Edinburgh R ers and Scotland), L Martin (Bigles-C dests and Raly), H Thompsfroft (No amplion); C Chaismers (Edinburgh Res and Scotland). D Scalif (Retireterent

SKIING

Maier sets Austria on way to scaling the heights

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HRMANN MAIER, the double Dlympic gold medal-win-nerled an Austrian sweep of eigh of the top ten places in Bomio yesterday for his first Word Cup downhill win of theeason. Maier swept down the emanding Stelvio piste in imi 54.51sec after the race was interrupted by crashes, the lost serious of which saw Nidas Burtin, of France, plogh into the safety netting.

Astrians, who set a record in te last race before Christma by taking the top nine plais in a men's super giant slain, were dominant once agar. Fritz Strobi was second in hin 55.2isec — more than hab second behind. The riermixtor - while Stephan Ebiharter was third in Imin 55. sec. They were followed by Hans Knauss, Werner Fraz and Hannes Trinkl.

Euro Kernen, of Switzeriam was the highest placed norAustrian in seventh place, twocoonds behind Maier. Iwas Maier's first downhill winince Wengen on January 16, before his spectacular dowhill crash at the Nagano

Olypics, and his second at Bonio in successive years.

"his definitely ranks amig my best downhill victories he said. "Last year when I we here no one was expecting to much of me, but this

Madr

yearveryone expected me to "he fact that I skied the fastest me in practice yesterday alsoncreased the pressure." he ided. "The piste was faster an yesterday and I had son difficulty with one of the juns. I decided to concentraion control on the upper part the run where the piste is one technical and to be

mo aggressive on the lower Sobl. who gave a warning of astrian dominance when he tarted tenth and sliced mothan a second off the early letting time of Kernen, was defined with his second

downills at Bornaio last "was simply looking for a topye finish after what bappeni. a year ago, so it's worerful to finish on the podi-

um said Strobl. With the absence of Lasse Kji the downhill leader, and Kje Andre Aamodt, his fellowlorwegian, the non-Aus-tric challenge was led by Keen and Didier Cuche, a

felly Swiss, who finished listian Ghedina, the Italiarvinner of the last downhill bele Christmas at Val Gardenasiled to adapt to the tight-

hotel, fancy dress, that sort of thing. It fostered team spirit."

Ron Tennick, the secretary of

captain with the Quins, changes in splendid isolation in the French Grey room.

Spreading out The youngest of the Henry family, Andrew, joined the family in Cardiff over Christmas but returns to Viadana, Italy, soon. The 17-year-old son of Graham, the Wales coach, is playing centre for the under-20s at the second division club.

Reunion bid

sport@the-times.co.uk

the English Schools RFU, is trying to locate members of the first England Schools team to play the Australians, in the hope of a 25th. anniversary reunion in Gloucester on January 27, hen the countries schoolboys meet. His research has reached Sydney,.

where Steve Callum, then a flanker from Harlow Technical College, lives.

Callum toured Australia with the senior England side the next year, while Gary Lovell, the second-row forward from Devonport High, runs a bistro in Plymouth called Le

R Devemport (Nomenton GS), M Zöller (Milliski), A Creat (Chieshurst Sidou) GS), T Bryan (Herroton GS), J Cubitt (North-ampton GS), C Ratiston (Workington GS), A Hignelli (Denstone College); R Double-day (Belmont Abbry), R Tilley (Durham), P Woodhead (Brackort GS), J Thorsdon (Hull Tech), G Lovelli (Devoncont HS). S.

Team strip The youngsters who play for Cefn Coed in Wales are raising money for new kit by removing their old kit.

all, save for strategically placed rugby balls. Three of the team do not appear, however, because their unmenos unte dump them, according to Kevin Driscoll, the coach. Winning is fun It was not so much the full

Within five days they have

sold 500 copies of a £3.50

calendar in which they bare

Monty as party night that helped Ireland to win the last international Board youth tournament in France. The tournament comes to Wales in March and competitors vould do well to remember the words of Harry McKibbin, who managed the Irish boys: "The policy was to encourage total integration. Each player was told that he could not sit down at a meal or meeting alongside anyone from the same province

there were fun nights in the

er ums of the Stelvio piste ancame home a distant ninetech. Pietro Vitalini, his tea-mate, crashed while Per Runggaldier was the DAVID HANDS | beplaced Italian in eleventh.

PRODUCT RECALL

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE

MOUSEHUNT MUG

WHSmith has identified a potential safety problem with some of the MOUSEHUNT MUCS that were given away free of charge with the MOUSEHUNT VIDEO (catalogue number VHR9002). Inadequate glazing on some of the mugs could constitute a hazard. As a precautionary measure, WHSmith has decided to recall the mug.

Customers who were given the free mug from any WHSmith or John Menzies store are advised to take the following action:

- 1. Do not use the mug
- 2. Please return the mug to your nearest WHSmith or John Menzies store you will receive a £1.00 gift whicher or send it to the following freepost address and a £1.00 voucher will be sent on receipt of the parcel: WHSmith Retail Limited, Freepost (SCE44100), Swindon, Wiltshire, SNS 3XS.
- 3. Anyone who suffers symptoms of illness they think may be associated with use of the mug should seek medical attention immediately.

Any WHSmith or John Menzies customer with a query regarding the above should telephone our helpline number: 01793 695195.

WHSmith apologises for the inconvenience this may cause and we assure our customers of our commitment to the highest standards of safety and quality.

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FOOTBALL Jaguars on

AMERICAN

form for play-offs

ville Jaguars — already in the play-offs — beat Pittsburgh ZI-3 in the final game of the National Football League's regular season. The Jaguars, who finished with II wins and five losses, had already clinched the AFC Central Division title and a play-off berth. They will play host to New England on Sunday in a firstround game.

"We got a little confidence going into the play-offs." Tay-lor said. "We came out thinking we could run the ball. They stacked up against the run but we made a few passes

and that loosened things up." Taylor ran 21 times for 71 yards and caught two passes for 21 yards, reaching the end zone on a run and a pass play against the Steelers, who furshed with a losing record for the first time since 1991.

With Mark Brunell missing his third consecutive game ow ing to an ankle injury and lamie Martin, his back-up, also injured, Jonathan Quinn made his second consecutive start at quarterback. The other first-round play-

off games next weekend see Buffalo at Mismi and Arizona at Dallas on Saturday and Green Bay at San Francisco on Sunday. Minnesota, Denver, Atlanta and the New York Jets have first-round

WITH a sponsor, Sekonda, found for the Superleague and a franchise granted in London, this was to be the season when ice hockey in Great Brit-Jonathan Weaver, named the most valuable player on ain came good.

owner of the Los Angeles Kings, of the National Hockey League, was reported to be spending £7 million on refurbishing the London Arena. Unfortunately, while the building is fine, the team that plays there, the London Knights, are not good enough. Although Jim Fuyarchuk, their coach, cites injuries as the main reason for their poor showing, the team unquestion-

The Anschutz Corporation,

ably needs to be strengthened. The Knights were replacements for Basingstoke Bison, who decided that they could no longer afford to play in the Superleague and there were also fears that the Newcastle franchise might not survive. in the event, the league took over responsibility for its continued existence but it is hardly an encouraging sign

for the future. In addition. Sheffield Steelers are struggling to keep above the breadline. If ice hockey is to prosper in this country, a way has to be found to encourage native-born talent and so enable teams to

spend . less on imported players. The All-Star game, staged at London Arena on Monday, was fairly indicative of the state of the Superleague: only five of the 36 players on show and only Canadian voices were heard

By Norman de Mesquita

ICE HOCKEY: MORE CLUBS AND HOME-BRED TALENT NEEDED TO SOVE PROBLEMS

League stays super in nane only

on the public-address system

Monday, and Tony Hand have proved that, given the opportunity. British-born and British-trained players can be as good as any import but, un-fortunately, the Superleague clubs do not see it that way. Manchester Storm and

Cardiff Devils have made most of the running in the Superleague so far and Nottingham Panthers won the Benson and Hedges Cup. Ayr Scottish Eagles, although they reached the final for the third time in as many years, have been a disappointment this season and they seem unlikely to retain any of the four titles they won last season.

Both the Eagles and the Storm acquitted themselves well in the European League and came close to qualifying for the second stage of the competition, only to fail at the last hurdle. The Superleague still has a problem regarding facilities and the enormous

SUPERLEAGUE TABLE

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disparity in capacities between

bs such as Manchester (16,000) and Bracknell (3,100): Nottingham Panthers are due to move into a new rink next Christmas which will increase their earning potential while Cardiff Devils also hope

to lable to move into a larger are for the 2000-01 season. le success of Manchester a c that had no tradition of icenckey, should encourage oths to become involved in the port but if the Superlease is to survive, it needs mo teams and more large

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RACING: JOCKEY ENDS SPECULATION OVER POSITION

'Maguire steps down as Nicholson's stable rider

RACING CORRESPONDENT

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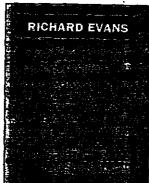
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ADRIAN MAGUIRE last night resigned as David Nicholson's retained stable jockey after a day of intense specu-ilation surrounding the Jack-daws Castle training base in the Cotsumide the Cotswolds.
The talented Irish rider,

whose retainer was worth around £15,000 a year, made the decision after discussing his luture with Colin Smith. owner of the yard. Maguire, 28, said: "Because of repeated press speculation



about my status at Jackdaws Castle, which is undermining my confidence and making life difficult for David Nicholson and the owners, I have asked Colin Smith if he will release

me from my retainer.
"After much discussion, he has agreed and, therefore, I Smith, who persuaded



Smith, left, has released Maguire from his contract.

subject to their wishes and those of David Nicholson.

"I very much regret having to take this action, having had the support of David Nicholson and Colin Smith, but this seems to be the only way of clearing the air and stopping the speculation and not having every ride put under a

press microscope." will be a free agent with imme Maguire against quitting a



diate effect. However, I will few months ago, added: Tonot be leaving Jackdaws Castle and I would hope that I had to accept the resignation
would continue to ride for the of Adrian Maguire as stable majority of owners who have jockey. I hope Adrian will con-so far been very supportive — tinue to find many rides here at Jackdaws Castle, but I can confirm there will be no retained jockey for this season and maybe next year."

The end of the retainer will mean Richard Johnson, at present second in the lockeys' championship, will be No I rider at Jackdaws Castle.

Magnire's diplomatically worded statement conceals considerable frustration and cently. The talented Irishman, who burst on to the national stage at the Cheltenham Festival in 1991, has suffered from more than a fair share of serious injuries and, in the eyes of some - including David Nicholson - his riding has suf-

fered as a result. Nicholson initially suggested Maguire and Johnson should share the rides at Jackdaws Castle. That idea was rejected, but this season Johnson has been given more of the best rides at the yard, the most recent being Escartefigue, who finished second to Tecton Mill in the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing

Day.
The manner in which Maguire has been treated in recent months prompted a serious confrontation earlier this week between Nicholson and Smith, both of whom are particularly strong characters. Heated words have been exchanged which has prompted speculation over the future of Nicholson at Jackdaws Castle.

Smith said last night: "The future of David Nicholson is the status quo. We hope this will put an end to the speculation about both Adrian's and David's position."

The two men, who have enjoyed enormous success since Jackdaws Castle was opened 1992, are likely to sit down in April to discuss Nicholson's future, but the odds are that "the Duke" will retire at the end of

Istabraq inspires Festival team

IT HAS not been the most relaxing Christmas for Irish weather-vanes, but few can doubt the way the wind is blowing after the big holiday meeting at Leopardstown. Waterlogging caused the abandonment of the last chase yesterday, but nobody should decrive themselves that the same is true of Irish aspirations for

the Cheltenham Festival. Yesterday's curtain call was taken by Istabrag, whose defence of the Smurfit Champion Hurdle makes him standardbearer of the Cotswolds raiding party in March. Something akin to a force of nature himself, he dutifully pottered through what can only be described as a paddy field to humiliate the two daring to accompany him in the AIB Agri-Business December Festival Hurdle. But this was merely a finishing flourish to four days that have seen some of Ireland's FROM CHRIS McGRATH AT LEOPARDSTOWN

most cherished jumping hopes gild their reputations.

The best of the lot, for many, happened to end up on his knees - but that stance is still being recommended to Florida Pearl's rivals for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup. Willie Mullins reports the great green hope to be unscathed after his fall in Monday's Ericsson Chase. "The only thing that's sore is my head," the trainer said. That is where Mullins can mull over his options - the Pierse Handicap Chase back here or even the Pillar Chase at Cheltenham - but he is likely to stick to his original plan and bring Florida Pearl to a peak in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup in February. Istabraq jumped as slickly as ever un-

der Charlie Swan, cruising ahead two out and walking eight lengths clear of Shantarini. "He was a bit long at the last," Swan said. "But he got out of it professionally and was otherwise economical." Aidan O' Brien, his trainer, can meas-

ure Istabraq's continuing physical prog-ress when he gets his first meaningful test since March in the AIG Europe Champion Hurdle back here next month. "French Holly looked impressive at Kempton on Monday," O'Brien said. "But this horse is getting stronger and quicker all the time. He was the heaviest he has been today."

He added that Le Coudrat, the French juvenile purchased by J P McManus for a reported £250,000, would make his Irish debut at Naas next mouth. Though he may end up in the Stayers' Hurdle, he will also be entered for the Champion.

STRATFORD

THUNDERER

12.50 Percy Parkeeper 2.20 Glowing Path 2.50 Piper's Rock 1.20 GENTLE RIVAGE (nap) 3.20 Play Games 1.50 Far Springs 3.50 Kabylie Quest

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.20 GENTLE RIVAGE.

12.50 BICHARDSONS OF OLDBURY MAIDEN HURDLE (Dw L £2,250: 2m 6t 110yd) (11 renners)

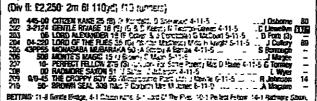
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TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

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1.20 RICHARDSONS OF OLDBURY MAIDEN HURDLE



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GENTLE REVAGE IZ Service of the Service Earling

1.50 HAPPLEY PENSIONS NOVICES CHASE (£4,224: 2m 5f 110yd) (7 numers)



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COURSE SPECIALISTS ENNERS SEE

Albrighton, trained by Ferdy Murphy, is 25-1 with Coral for the Triumph Hurdle after winning at Musselburgh yesterday. He was part of a 104-1 four-timer for Murphy and amateur rider John McNamara, who took his winning tally in Britain to nine.

2.20 807 TAXIS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,772; 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

401 43 (45- BALLET ROYAL 567 (CD.G.S) (# Magnet), # Magnet (3-17-9) N Norman (7) 402 G51115 GLOWING PATH 44 (SE.D.F.G.S) ** (Nov. # Hoope: #-11-1)	žī
402 /REP-1 TREMENDETO 15 (2) G.S. (1 P. Bethandon) Tiles 8 (1.2 X Abridia G)	ě
494 116-00 HIGHLY REPUTABLE 41 OF GI IG E-MEN G Banky 6-11-2 . AP LICEDY	装
415 ONE STO ALEBERT 22 PLD F. J. A. Priter A. actors 9-11-0	æ
406 43164- CROMARDO CROMIJ 240 (D.S.) (J. Martie) P Beian 7-10-17 W Worthoodson	77
407 DUD-5P PALACE PARADE 193 (B.G) IF LICENSON A HOOSE 6-10-9	58
ans Press Barron Scamp 34 (DS) has 8 Palmer D Millians 6-19-9 - Att 11 Februari	<u>58</u>
1 409 616000 BRITANISA MILES 41 (F.G.S.) TO GodEC 7.2 Figs. 7-10-0 . R Johnson	54
410 DOSCAD GALLOPRIS GLAS 42 (D.F.G) IP Hazardson B Local an 6-10-0 . O MePhon (5)	68
411 GDS-56 MISTY RAIS 26 (B) (Lzt) Unarce Strong) I Speamp 4-10-0 A Maguere	76
41. 305-4F CROALH PATRICE BA (B) (AS) 3 CROY) 3 The 6-10-0	72
413 065-50 ALIMERIAN 34 /G HU) W.: Is Mackey 4-10-0 Na R Formstal (7)	30
414 0-P00 CHRI/GACHGOOK 20 : 6- 1 // (0.05) 1: 6620 4-10-0	
415 DP-000 WDODLANDS LAD TOD 25 Millionands LLD ? Produce 6-10-0 C Libertaya	37

Long handisep Serial Science 3-13. Bistinsa Milit 3-11. Fashirang Earts 5-6. Mitty Ren 3-8. Erasyl Pasins 9-2. Automizes 5-13. Energy Exposition 5-17. Hondisens Lad Too 6-7. BETTESS, 3-1 Sible of Pun 4-1 Premiercons 5-1 Easter Scorns, 6-1 Highly Republic 10-1 American, 12-1 Cir. matter Ching's Patrick 16-1 street.
1867 ANSIABLE S SARY 5-10-39 Matter Chin Service 14 van

1667. ANNABLE 'S BAR' S 'O S 'W Martin (3-1) O Write 14 on The Control of the Con

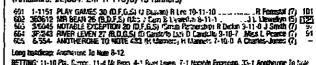
2.50 tote handicap chase (showcase race and tote trifecta RACE) (\$7,928; 3m) (12 junners)



BETTING 9-3 Aur in Time, 3-1 Propris Paris 6-1 Sucti Massion Baid Colombrat, 8-1 Finnutsila, 10-1 Hoodunike. Trooppile 12-1 Early Dursion Herostice Robert, 18-1 Coole Hill, 25-1 Highland Look. 1997, COOLE Hill, 6-11-2 F. Shropo (2-1) D. Mathousin Shran.

Book Mandam D Che of 10 to Lynd D The Wear in translating there is Discussion of the Wear in translating there is Discussion (Che 2), good (Code Hat 18) 4m of 7 to 560 Gent in hand-cap there is Che 2), good (Code Hat 18) 4m of 7 to 560 Gent in hand-cap there is Che 2. good (Code Hat 18) 4m of 7 to 560 Gent in hand-cap there is the code of the code in the code of t

3.20 CLAYDON HORSE EXERCISERS HANDICAP CHASE (Amateurs, £2,804; 2m 1f 110yd) (5 runners)



1997 LOBSTER COTTAGE \$-11-2 ft Vitality (9-4 jt fav) is Balley 6 can

Play Garnes Lear High Mayor 140 in 6 Junney handleap chase of Watscaler Card Install Manager 180 and of 5 to Integrate Propie on Installation Card (pm 3) goods, (Installation Description 200 5ht of 9 to Learn Giff to Factor in amateus handleap chase of Ludion (Rm. good to sold) River Leven 11-1 and of 5 to Buckton (as in Analysis and Windows Card, good to sold) Apparture TV Mate 141 4th of 9 to both Durakeron in selling handleap chase of Ludion (cm. good to stim). PLAY GAMES will take planty of basing decade top weight

3.50 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Oualifier: \$2,583: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)



BETTING: 3-1 Opiniocine Thiolog, 4-1 County Kirs, 9-2 fill And Turn, 7-1 Boromen Loud, 8-1 Go-connyson, 16-1 Deep C Dina, 12-1 Tuffuc, Windcong, 20-1 others. 1997: YOUNG SPARTACUS 4-11-0 \$ Wyrms (8-1) 1 Forsier 12 cm

Burotown Lord is in novice hundle at Window (2m, good) previously 23/10h of 20 in Dragon Lord in NH fair race at Lingfeist (2m 110kd, good) to the 20 in Dragon Lord in NH fair race at Lingfeist (2m 110kd, good) (2m 110kd, good)

OPTIMISTIC THINKER and McCoy appeal as a warning combination

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Taunton

Going: good to soft (soft in places) 12.50 (2m 1f hdis) 1, Yoldd Bloppie (M A Frogerald, 7-2): 2, Poisr Champ (5-1); 3, (Sachates W (7-2), Farry Hill 3-1 fact, 13 ran, NS: Ry '8 Alone, 101, 151, N Henderson, Tole: \$5.20, E1.90, 21.50, 21.20 DF: \$9.90; CSF: \$21.22

CS: £21.22 1.20 (2m 3i ch) 1, Rollenii (R Widger, 13-2); 2, Orientei Boy (7-4 fau), 3, Dumacks View (50-1), 14 non. 5i, 6i, R Alner, Totac £7.20; £2.20, £1.90, £10.50. DF: £10.90 CSF; £17.50, Tripast £522.38 1.50 (3m 110y) fidel 1, Top Stipper (M.A. Fizzgeral, 3-1 (sv); 2, Pablots Jet (7-2); 3, Hotspur Street (12-1); 11 nm. 15, 6t. V. Greenway, Tober 23.90; 61 20, 51 40, 68-10. DF: 25 60. CSF £12.83 Treast £104 78. 2.29 (2m 1fhdie) 1, Time For Action (I Mé-gee, 5.2 tay), 2, Atlante Max (4-1), 3, Drag-on King (5-1), 8 ran. 13, 5 C. Mann. Tola: 53.70, 51.40, 51.30, 51.30, 5F: 517.20, CSF 512.43 Tricket 542.18 2.50 (2m. 31 110/d hide) 1; Certio (R-Ounwoody, 8-1), 2; Uphem Surprise (3-1 k-4w); 3; Granby Bet (4-1); Strongolate 3-1 k-4w; 13 ran, Nr. The Bocaring Brief, 6; 1*4, Mrs. Williams, Tote, \$10.40, \$2.50, \$2.10, \$180, \$07

2.72 (3m ch) 1, No Fiddling (E Husberid, 12-1): 2, Basison (11-4 lav), 3, Space Cap-pe (40-1), 14 ran, NA. Coolvee, Glaisnock Lad. 12, 141. G. McCourt, Total: £17 70: \$4.40, £2.20, £11.00 DF. £37.70. CSF: £41.62. Tricast £1,205.13 241 62. Tricast: E1, 205.13 3,60 (2m 1) flat) 1, Crack Shot (N William-son, 7-2); 2, Kentiord Busy B (6-1), 3, Cas-sia (3-1), Etmide 9-4 fau: 12 mm, NR, Qur Lotes: 1-4, 2, 1, Newlet: 10te: £4 70; £2 00. £1 60, £2 00. DF: £15.30 CSF: £24 13.

Placepot: £21.20. Quadpot: £10.50.

Haydock Park Gointz soft (heavy patches) 1.05 (2m hdie) 1, Tonoco (S Dusck, 13-2); 2, Beau (8-13 ted); 3, Splanda Melody (12-1) 11 ran 4, Tv Mrs S Smith, Tota-68-10 et 40, 61-20, 21-90, DF: 63-70; CSF: C10,97

2.05 (2m 4) hole) 1, Globe Rummer (L. Cooper, 13-8 km), 2, Cap It if You Can (6-1), 3, Baldcar (3-1), 5 ran, 9t, 111, J.J. O'Nelli Yole (2-6), 51, 50, E1 90, DF: 25 70, CSF, E1 0 31.

RACELINE CARLISLE 102 202 LINGFIELD 103 203 G'HOUNDS 122 22 FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Placepoit £18.20. Quadpot; £10.00.

Musselburah

Going: good good to firm in places)
12.25 (2m 4) hotel 1, life Lurpak (str.) P Mc-Namara, 2-1), 2, Northern Uncon (7-2); 3, Ch. Cosy (5-4 tay), 8 ran, 11, 141 F Marphy. Tore 52.80, 51.10, 51.30, 51.10. DF: 55.00 CSF: 58.64. CSP: \$854. 12.55 (2m hdls) 1, Albrighton (Ar J P Mc-Namara, 4-1); 2, Rovereno (5-2; 3, Polo Verture (3-1), Newsetty 9-4 law, 13 ran, 51, -12. F Marphy, Tola: \$2.70; £2.40, £1 80, £1.10. DF. £15.50. CSF. £14.43.

17.10. UP: E15.50. CSF: Y14.43. 1.25 (3m ch) 1. Andrian (Nr.) J NcNemars. 25.1m); 2. Manhatan Rainbow (8-1); 3. Kesp Clear (11-2). 5 mm. NR: Jesotle. 77. 28. F. Murphy, Yole: £1.50. £1.10. £1.40. DP: £2.10. CSF: £1.60. 12.38. U.F. ETBH.ST. CSF: ETZ-UT.
2.25 (3m hole) T. Humfing Sinne. (A Dob-bin, 5-1), 2. Joe Buzz (2-1 fav); 3. Wicklow Way (8-1), 7 ran. 201, 41. C. Grant. Tota 25.40; 22.90, 27.80. DF: 20.00. CSF: £15.88

210 04
3.25 (2m fet) 1. Native Affair (W Dowing, 11-10 fet); 2. Whesto (16-1); 3. Penty Courage (33-1) 10 pm. NP: Cuchulatin, Handsone Henry, 5, 24 L Lungo, Tote: 22.70; 22.20, 27.50 DF: 128.20, CSF-521.44. pot: £212.50. Guadpot: £38.30. Lingfield Park

1.15 (50 1, Adelphil Boy (R Studindine, 4-1); 2, Thomsby Girl (8-1); 3, College Blue (10-1), Lady Caroline (54); 2-1 (av 6 rar. 44, hd, M Chapman, Tote 23 60; 21.70, 24.00 DF; 223 90, CSF, 520.20.

2.55 (3m ch) 1, Shanagurry (Mr J P McNa-mara, 4-1); 2, Master Bavard (6-4 tax), 4 cm. 8L F Musphy. Tota: £4.40 DF: £2.60, CSF-41. M Channon. Tole: £4 70; £2.70, £3 10 DF: £39.20, £3F, £26.62 DF: SS 20. CSF. 226 62 245 (firm 4): Meleton Strike (T Sprake. 14-1): 2, White Plains (12-1): 3, Night City (F-2): Ettabub (Shi) 3-1 (av. 8 ran. 2-1 5) Mrs A Panet. Tole 2 16-40; 22-00, 23-00. DF £55.10. CSF. £151.21. The OF 155: 10. CSF. F151 21. Treast 1582: 16 3.15 (Im 25) 1. Raysis (N Carisia, 1-4 Las) 2. Royal German (2-1); 3. Zada (10-1) 9 ran. 3-4; 2. N Berry, Tota: CSJ.00; 12.10. E1 50. S3-20 DF: £3 10. CSF: £4 90 3.45 (7) 1. Beast Queent (D Sweerrey, 11-2). 2. Elbusy Primos (7-2 lard), 3. Bequale (4-1). 9 ran 11-4, risk K Burke. Tota: 159.20; 51.90. E2.10, £7 70 DF: £19.90 CSF. £24.23 In-CSSE 590 71

Placenot: £154.50. Quedoot: £22.40.

☐ Sihafi's final attempt to gain a record-breaking tenth bandicap win in a Flat season failed at Lingfield yesterday. The David Nicholls-trained gelding finished fifth, beaten nearly seven lengths, behind Best Quest.

THUNDERER

12.40 Padauk, 1.10 Prince Prospect, 1.40 Miss Take. 2.10 Daphne's Doll. 2.40 Prospector's Cove. 3.10 Pertemps Mission. 3.40 Barbason.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.40 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS IN RUNNING HANDICAP (Div 1: £1,735; 2m) (10 runners) 1 (8) 3332 IL PRINCIPE 14 (E.BF,D,E.B.S) John Burry 4-10-0

1 (8) ASSX IL PROBLETE 14 (E.SF.D.E.B.S.) John Burry 4-10-0 2 (3) 3061 MOURCARY 9 (C) P Evals 5-9.7 C Copen (7) 74 3 (7) 5003 SILLY MOUNTS HEE 19 6 L Moore 6-9-4 ... Dans (Triest 55 4 (2) 8006 SICARLET INFESCENT 19 F.S. M. Isher 4-6-11 5 (5) 0550 PADALIK 71 (B) M Haynes 4-8-10 W Hutchinson (7) 70 6 (5) 4055 COLLENDEE 14 (D.E.D.F.E.S.) J Shedhar 10-8-8 WHISTON 78 7 (10) 7/44 DARWIG KING 22) (SF.S.) M Soham 8-9-3 S Department 78 8 (4) 0020 CATCHINENT 14 Mrs A Partit 4-7-13 P Due (5) 56 9 (1) 6800 LA CHATELANE 19 (F.G.) Mins 8 Sanders 4-7-10 10 (6) 0040 O'GARNEY PARK 19 (V) P Mitchell 47-10 ... N Garline ...

5-2 il Principe, 11-4 Nodari, 4-1 Billy Moscation, 7-1 Scarlet Circums, 12-1 Cul-gildge, Calciumeni, 14-1 Parinet, 16-1 ottess. 1.10 MANNY BERNSTEIN EARLY PRICE TEXT SERVICE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,684; 6f) (6)

1 11 2255 CALLITWHATYOUNBAMT 181 J R Position 9-0 G-7 Million 19 1 G-7 Mil

1.40 MANNY BERNSTEIN FREEPHONE NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: 52.712: 7f) (6) 7-4 (beses Filly, 11-4 Sir Pesse, 7-2 Mass Tales, 6-1 Juni, Goodman, 12-1 Raidon Roman, 14-1 Malchie.

Blinkered first time

2.10 MANNY BERRSTEIN BOOKMAKERS CREDIT DIVISION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £2,697; 71) (6)

1 (1) 0000 FLEGIAN 9 M Martmett 9-0 Pine (5) 22 (5) 3000 SECOND SUN 36 J Bridge 9-0 G Bardwell 58 3 (4) 0322 SOCIAL ROUND 91 Powerl 9-0 G Bardwell 58 4 (2) 5034 DAPHRES BOLL 28 (57) Miss 5 Kellong 8-9 Fine Process (6) 10 000 PEARLY CHIEFN 186 6 Bayery 8-9 S Whitmouth 22 6 (6) 0005 PEARLY CHIEFN 186 6 Bayery 8-9 A POB (5) 74 45 Social Rosent, 9-4 Daghay's Doll, 7-1 Jacobien's Giol, 12-1 Pestly Ocean, 25-1 Fenglan, 33-1 Second Squ.

2.40 manny bernstein bookmakers trade DIVISION CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,085: 1m 2f) (4) 1 (4) 4531 CASTLES BURNING 11 (DD.F) C Dyer 4-9-5 (B) Fallour (3) 75
2 (1) 2251 PROSPECTA 90 (F) 11 (DD.F.Q.S) J Pentet 5-9-6 (R) Pales 78
3 (2) 4000 FAR-SO-LA 40 (F) MS L Levell 3-9-0 — N Mortes (7) 84
4 (3) 4050 SELETTE 9 (M.S) D Mycla Joses 4-9-12 — S Wilderwich (20) 17-10 Castles Bossing, 11-8 Prinspestor's Cove, 7-1 Selliste, 12-1 Fai-So-La.

3.10 manny bernstein bookmakers in RUNNING HANDICAP (Div 0: £1,735: 2m) (9)

1 (8) 4960 CRL DE RENE 11 (5) K Comeliard 4-10-0
2 (3) 2054 OPERATIC 25 (V.D.) P Hedger 3-9-4 A. Micsions 75
3 (5) 0532 ROYAL ROULETTE 14 (7) Mics B Sonjers 4-9-1 A. Clark 1999
4 (1) 0002 PREMER LEAGUE 27 (F.G.S.) k C-Brown 8-9-10
N Contists 68 4 (1) 0002 PRESENT LEAGUE 27 (F.C.S) N C-STOWN R-B-10
5 (7) 0202 PRESENT LEAGUE 27 (F.C.S) N C-STOWN R-B-10
5 (7) 025 PRESENT LEAGUE SHOWN R-B-10
7 (8) 5256 COASTGUARDS RERO 140 (CO) 8 Pource 5-6-0
March Devyer 55
8 (5) 6002 KKK, 19 (G.S) J Bidge 5-7-11 ______ G Bardwell 76
9 (4)-0000 BALLA D'ARE 19 B Johnson 3-7-10 ______ M Day 71 9-4 Pertenga Mission, 4-1 Operato, 5-1 Royal Royalte, 7-1 Presues League. Fata, 10-1 Clei De Reve, Copsignands Hem, 14-1 others,

3.40 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS POUBLE RESULT HANDICAP (£3,534: 1m) (8)

3 (1) 0005 ZBMRB 36 (BF,CD) J Toffer 4-9-10 T Williams 93
4 (6) 0532 BMRB/SOM 19 (B,CD) F E Mone 6-9-8 County Monis 81
5 (7) 0000 GSMBS 19 (CD) S Dow 3-9-2 P Doe 5) 80
6 (7) 0541 HUSHYTY 12 (D,C.S.) G Brown 6-9-8 A Poll (S) 96
7 (4) 0540 DAMYY 858017 29 (S) J L Harts 4-8-3 J Quant 83
8 (2) 0533 8563MLE 1 8 Expran 4-7-13 G Barthred 67 3-1 Topico, 7-2 Bartassos, 9-2 Smart Kid, 5-1 Beguillo, 6-1 Zasso, 7-1 Hugwey, 16-1 Genius, 20-1 Dendy Begent.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRANSCESS: Mrs. A Parcett, 4 womens from 21 manners, 19 0%, J Ensietz, 5 from 25, 17 2%; Mrs. G Ratherov, 44 from 285, 15 4%, C Cycle, 33 from 255, 12-9%, R beggen, 25 from 277, 12-9%, G L Moore, 90 from 273, 12-7%, P Hedger, 9 from 80, 11-3% JOCKEYS: P Protectes, 4 workers from 23 rises, 17.4%, 5 Windowsk, 54 from 380, 13.8%, M Wighton, 19 from 149, 12.6%, A Clark, 73 from 672, 11.6%, A Cohone, 76 from 86, 11.8%, J Tate, 14 from 131, 18.7%.

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT This is a deal from the 1998 Premier League. Would you open the bidding on the South hand?

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer East East-West game IMPs **▲** KJ63 7 Q8 7 AQ 10 5 AAQ7 **♠** 8754 📤 A 10 9 C K 10 🤼 J74 · 764 ♦ 932 S 4 K6532 **4** Q2 C A96532 ≎ KJB **4** 10 4 1 S Pass 2 H

3 C Pass Pass Contract: Four No-Trumps by South, Lead; three of clubs. As most of the players in the far. In that respect the twins Premier League did open

step. However. I think it is wrong. Make the hand: 4 32 ♥ AQ9632 ♦ KJB 4 104 and it is a clear One Heart opening. But queen double-ton of spades is of uncertain value: also Axxxxx is not a suit to rebid if it can be avoided. Parmer may have a singleton and so downgrade

with the South cards, I sup-

pose I must be the one out of

his hand, even though you may fit him in the other The auction above was that of Justin (South) and Jason Hackett, for the team that won the League. Note North's raise of Three No-Trumps to Four No-Trumps. With no suit agreed, that is quantita-tive. It asks his partner to go on if he has better than a

were in harmony, but I think North did too much. If his partner was capable of opening on that filthy South hand, North should just have bid Three No-Trumps over Two Hearts. Four No-Trumps was a

precarious spot, but with the king of hearts and the king of clubs onside, it came The Times Book of Bridge 2. featuring the best of Robert

Sheehan's daily columns is now out. Order your copy from Chess & Bridge, 369 Euston Road, London NWI 3AR, tel: 0171 388 2404, price £7.99 (25% discount in December), post free for Times readers.

□Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend minimum for his bidding so section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HUKE a. A bronchial complaint b. An outer garment c. A ball game

a. The keel of a boat b. Canned beer c. Bowls

ESKER a. Hairy growth

c. Gravel

b. A horseman

a. A cuddly toy animal b. A small opening c. An Indian tribe

Answers on page 38

LEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hastings In the Hastings Premier the favourites are Jon Speelman. Tony Miles, Matthew Sadler and Ruslan Ponomariev. Today I give further examples of their play. Of particular note is the win by Jon Speelman against Alexei Shirov, who has technically qualified to play a world championship match against Garry Kasparov, although dates and venue are not yet fixed.

White: Jonathan Speelman Black: Alexei Shirov Salamanca 1998 **English Opening**

Bg4 Nbd7 7 0-0 Bd6 0-0 21 Rxc2 23 Nc6 25 Qb8 26 d4 27 Kh2 28 QgS+ 29 Nd8 Nhf6 Kh5 Nxf7+ 31. 32 33 Ose3

White: Ruslan Ponomariov Black: Mark Taimanov Cannes Generations 1998 Sicilian Defen

e6 11 Qe2 12 0-0 Nd5 Be7

24 Qc4 25 Nd4 e5 8€ 27 Qd3 31 Ng3 32 Red1 33 Nxc6+ Qud5 Roc1 Rx1 Rd4 Q05 Qd7 0c2 42 13 Pd8 Bg6 44 a5 45 Nt2 15 Rd2 Qb5 Kb7 51 a7+ Kva8 a80+

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

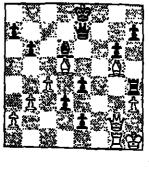
1714

Ra2

Black to play. This position is from the game McNab -Plaskett, Hastings 1996.

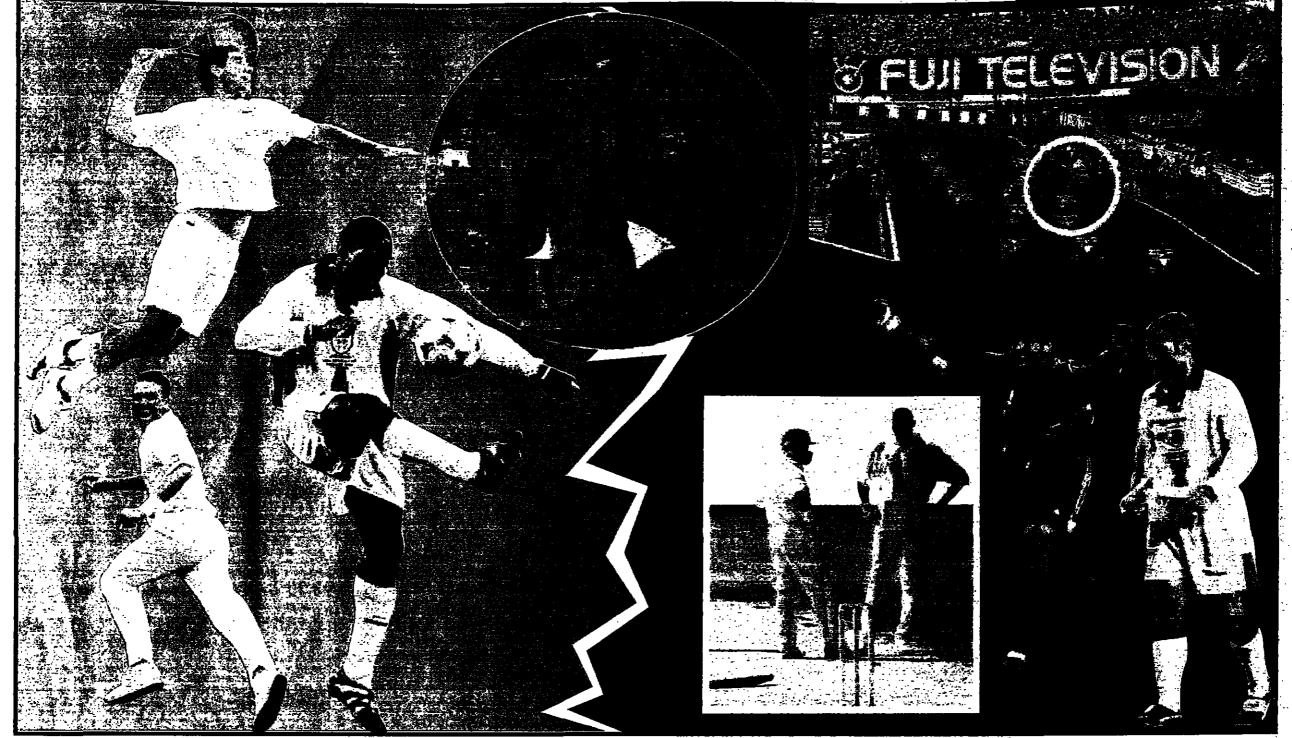
Black has an army of central pawns marching down the board but has to deal with the threats to his queen and rook. What is the best way to go about this?

Solution on page 38



sant me ngures appearen 100 good to be true.

a tŀ



Year of the jackal goes from sublime to the ridiculous

images in Egyptian art is the jackal-headed god, Anubis, weighing a soul against a feather. I would like to close this sporting year by bringing you the Anubis Theory of Sport. What is the most satisfying expe-

rience in sport? Winning, we say at once, but even as we speak the word, our lips stumble over it. Because it is not quite true. Almost but not quite.

As we look back over the sporting year, we find that the best moments were not necessarily those of victory. Rather, they were of combat at the very highest level.

In most sporting encounters, from the grandest of grand finals to the most ordinary of quotidian encounters, one person, or one team' loses because he or she or they

One plays well, the other plays less well. And it is all interesting enough: after all, it is the daily bread of

But there are other. higher, rarer times. Times when neither

opponent fails, when both play at their best. At these moments, both are playing the game as well as it has ever been played, as well as the

Normally, one side gains a dominance over the other. But on these rare occasions, one side forces the

other to play better and, having

done so, plays better in response. And on and on, spiralling upwards to a scarcely breathable altitude of excellence, a dizzying, head-spinning, vertiginous experience of all the best things that sport has to of-

And it is here that the jackalheaded god comes into play. For on these high and lonely occasions, the

The fact that

England lost

is scarcely

victor and loser is no more than a feather. At such extraordinary levels of achievement, the feather lands on the scale of decision with the thump of

relevant? lead weight. There were three occasions in the past year when sporting combat reached this high pitch of perfecwhen tion: three times in which the outcome was decided by the weight of

> The first of these, was, of course, the England-Argentina match. The exchange of dodgy penalties was fol

goals, but that wasn't the best bit. What followed, after the sending off, was a passage of sustained brilliance: Argentina attack, English defiance.

It was a piece of true sporting beauty and the fact that England lost the penalty competition is scarcely relevant at all. The truth was in the compail the res tered bugely and yet it hardly mattered at all. In such perfect moments, the winner loses something, the loser gains something.

The match would have been as perfect, as memorable, had the result gone the other way. The purity of the combat at this high level takes us beyond earthbound cares about mere result.

The second example of the Anubis Effect was at Wimbledon. It was another defeat, too, and again the defeat hardly matters. Tim Henman played Pete Sampras in the semi-finals, the first time a Briton had reached such a level since 1973. The match reached a peak and

sustained it through sets two and

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

three. Henman came back from a set down to play with spite and venom, surfing the wave of hope from the Centre Court crowd and taking the second set. In the third set, on an occasion desperately highly charged, Sampras fought the Henman venom with power and with

Richard Hobson on the club that survived a brush with extinction to face Aston Villa

his own most potent gift, a kind of moral authority. And it was - just

Sampras is not given to big displays of emotion on court, especialy in the middle of the match. But when he won the third set — he did so by the weight of a feather — he nunched the air and leant above the scuffed green grass. He knew that

The third example is the joust between Allan Donald and Michael Atherton in that turnultuous Test match at Trent Bridge. Donald, the best fast bowler in the world, was bowling at his best and his fastest. Atherton was combating him with nerve, calm, a small smile and just a smidgen of luck.

It was a titanic joust and this time the feather fell for the Englishman. It led the way to victory in the match and ultimately the series. which was all very fine and significant and important. But what actually mattered was the joust itself. The sight of two great players playing at their very best, the moment

lous mirth.

The second was the Sabina Park Test match between England and West Indies, which was abandoned after 56 minutes, 10.1 overs and eight direct hits on the batsmen. It was highly dangerous and utterly

still cannot fail to provoke incredu-

The final example is England in the penalty shoot-out against Argentina. They were hopeless. I mean, can you imagine Franz Beckenbauer saying: "Well, you can't simulate the pressure of a penalty shoot-out, so let's not even try. Let's leave it all down to dumb luck." It was as if Fu Mingria decided not to practise diving off the 30 metres board, because no amount of practice could simulate the pressure of doing so in the Olympic Games. Poor Batty. Never even taken a

ile framework of sport - the play-Missed. So sport took us in a few min-Poor Batty. Never taken a penalty before?

cle of beauty to the abyss of bathos. That was not about England it was about all of sport. It takes you to the loftiest peaks and then

dumps you, not in despair, but in belly-laughing hilar-ity. And the difference is no more an the weight of a feather.

TOMORROW The magic numbers of 1998

HOCKEY

No happy Joyce optimistic ending after journey for Storry to Hull and back

BETH STORRY produced an outstanding performance in goal for the South but it was still not arren Joyce always in-tended to drift into coachenough to prevent her team from losing 1-0 to the holders, Midlands. in the opening match of the un-der-21 regional tournament at ing or management, but not this soon or into such a parlous Milton Keynes yesterday (Cathy situation. If anybody has inherited Harris writes).
As the Clifton No 2, Storry a harder task than the one he undertook in succeeding Mark

spends most weekends deputising for Claire Burr in the premier division, but she demonstrated her obvious potential against the champions, who failed to find a way past her at 15 first-half penalty corners. and eight in the second. The result was sealed by the Mid-

lands captain and dependable defender, Sally Wright, who finished off a good move down the right when she scored a superb goal from the edge of the circle in the fifteenth minute.

Wright, along with Storry and Joanne Duff, from the North, were among several players who must have impressed the England Un-der-21 management watching from

A goal in each half by Charlotte Fisher, of the North, a strong candidate to make the England Under-21 indoor squad, helped her team to a comfortable, if flattering, 4-1 victory over the West in the second game. Duff, the North's influential midfield player and captain. made it 3-0 from a penalty corner a minute later and Joanne Bradburn squeezed in a low reverse-stick shot before the West replied with a consolation goal through Marianne Hood three minutes from time.

coach at Old Trafford. He under-took the job while playing for Burnley. spending two evenings each week training the under-16s and running the side on Sunday mornings. He had dipped his toe into coaching as an unpaid assist-ant to his father, the youth coach with Bury, and decided that the Hateley at Hull City last month, it Then, as now. Hull sat isolated experience at a bigger club would at the bottom of the Nationwide improve his prospects of staying in League third division and while

away to Aston Villa on Saturday as a distraction. The sides are first and 92nd in the English pyramid, top and bottom of the senior ladder. Contrasts are stark and many, but one comparison in particular testifies to the gulf between the elite and the impoverished. Villa paid £5.75 million for Dion Dublin, a sum that would have rescued Hull

is hard to remember when.

their existence is no

longer in immediate

peril, their future in

the Football League

clearly is. Well

might Joyce des-

cribe the FA Cup

third-round

three times over when they stood recently on the brink of closure. Jayce, whose first reaction was to laugh at the draw, is happier speaking of similarities. He talks of "good habits" that pertain as much to Gareth Southgate as to his own Gareth Williams. It is a prosaic but sensible outlook, nurtured during five years as a part-time

passing through his Wes Brown, Alex Notman and Danny Higginbotham, all of whom have

graduated to the

United first team. 'Materially it was a world away from Hull City, but there were certain things I learnt that I can put into practice here," Joyce, 33, said. "Even though the kids had super facilities, the best coaching and preparation, it was instilled in them that if they want to be successful then they must work hard. I tell the team here that if they work their socks off they

should be allright." He was already familiar with the lower divisions, having played almost 600 games in midfield or de-fence with Bolton Wanderers, Preston North End, Plymouth Argyle and Burnley when he joined Hull 24 years ago. Last season he won the player-of-the-year award, but



Few managers can have inherited as difficult a task as Joyce

the final position of 22nd was the worst in their history as ructions

developed between key figures. Supporters felt increasingly un-happy with David Lloyd, the chairman and Great Britain Davis Cup tennis captain, who had taken over the club in July 1997. Hateley was unhappy at a lack of money to spend on players. In early October, the criticism became too much for Lloyd to bear. Angry, too, that his wish to sell the decaying Boothierry Park and move to a new ground had been thwarted, he pulled out.

threatening to leave the dub to fend for itself.

A five-man consortium headed by Tom Belton, a farmer and onetime chairman of Scunthorpe United, dispelled fears of liquidation by stepping in with what appeared to be days, perhaps hours, to spare. By now, Joyce effectively worked as assistant to Hateley. When Hateley was dis-missed. Joyce expected that his own departure would follow swiftly. Instead, Belton placed him in temporary charge and then conWe are still in a huge mess but we are all in it together?

when the feather was poised, the

balance level and no one to know

The best of sport is made of such

moments, when sport takes on a

high and noble meaning beyond its

usual capacity. But it does so be-cause sport is precariously bal-

anced on the edge of farce. The frag-

which way it would fall.

games for appallingly

high emotional and fi-

nancial stakes - is al-

ways like to keel over

into abject nonsense

at any moment. The

weight of a feather

will take sport in an

instant from beauty

Three of these ab-

, ject moments stand out in the year's

sport. The first was the sight of Michael Schumacher stalling at-

the lights in the showdown grand

prix the last race of the year. All set for the most amazing moment in

history and — whoops. That hand, sheepishly raised above the cockpit,

to belly-laugh.

firmed the appointment. Pictures of Hateley still adorn the manager's office. Joyce says that he has been too busy to take them down. "I thought that as I was playing there was no harm in being the manager as well," Joyce said. "Besides, it might be the only manager's job I ever get offered. I honestly do not know how close the club came to folding. David Lloyd [who still owns the ground had all the

power so he could do what he liked. It was a scary time. "Now, the atmosphere is quite buoyant considering our position. We are probably as stable as we have been for a while. We are in a huge mess, but we are all in it together - the players, the chairman and the supporters. We are paddling in the same direction." He describes the support as "dif-

ferent class". More than 6,000 travelled for a 2-0 Coca-Cola Cup defeat against Newcastle United last season and the last of the 5,900 allocation for Villa Park was sold within an hour. He has also been allowed to being in new players, including Justin Whittle, a defender from Stoke City. for £50,000.

"I want people to enjoy Saturday as a day out," Joyce said, "They have deserved it and they should take it for what it is. If this game brings a bit of publicity for Hull and some money for the club, then great. But I don't want anybody to forget our priority lies elsewhere." The table will not allow it.

Ward gets there in the end

DOREEN WARD, 74, the grand-mother from Paniton le Fyide who wept into the second round-robin stage on Monday, upset the odds again when she qualified for the quarter-finals of the Boddingtons Newton Hall International Classic at Blackpool yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes). Ward, who has undergone two

hip replacement operations in the past three years, beat Caroline McAllister, the world indoor surgles champion from Lochwinnoch. 21-18 in her third game of the day. She then had to wait until officials had consulted the rule-book and reached for the calculator because she was involved in a tie with McAllister and Sue Kearsley, the local hope, who had each won one game.

Agnes [Melrose] was through, having won all her games, but the other three in group B had all won one each, so we had to fall back on shots countback," David Beacham, the tournament director, said. Trouble was, they were all on plus three shots. It's usual to favour the player who wins the game between phayer who was the game between the tied players and they had all beaten each other. We sat the three players down and they opted to go for the player who had won the most ends." Ward had won 31 compared with McAllister's 24 and Kearsley's 21.

The day's biggest shock was the faikire of Jean Baker, the England Commonwealth Games singles representative in Kuala Lumpur, to win a game in her group, from which Sandra McLeish and Kather-

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England lay claim to spoils of Waugh

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (fourth day of five): England beat Australia

THE greatest of Test matches turn on the smallest and most curious of matters. England, who have tortured the souls of their followers with infuriating inconsistencies down the years, might have been denied one of their finest, most characterful victories yesterday but for two fateful decisions by Steve Waugh, a cricketer who makes very few mistakes.

England were completing four uninterrupted hours in the field, an unacceptable product of well-meaning yet poorly considered legislation, when the man officially rated the best batsman in the world consigned them to a little more by claiming the extra half-hour, aiming for victory with a day to spare. It was not an outlandish move, for Australia had crept within 14 runs of winning this fourth Test with three wickets standing. It was calculatingly done because England were exhausted and this was designed to drain their last reserves. Yet it had entirely the opposite effect.

Dean Headley, the improba-ble colossus of this wholly unlikely result, had been bowling unchanged for 100 minutes, but he roused himself to go on and immediately took the eighth wicket. It was then that Waugh, who had batted for seven hours in the game without being out, took his second, more questionable decision.

As Darren Gough puffed out his glowing cheeks and began a new over, Waugh took a single from the opening ball, exposing Stuart MacGill to the strike. Doubtless Waugh was keen to demonstrate that the 88 runs the pair had added for the ninth wicket in Australia's first innings was not a fluke. Gough suggested other-wise. His first ball to MacGill could scarcely have been im-proved upon. It was of yorker length, swung late and wickedly and hit off stump. Suddenly, Glenn McGrath, one of the world's foremost rabbits, was entering and Gough knew that he had only to conjure another such ball to secure the

It took him only two



Gough's appeal for leg-before against McGrath is answered in the affirmative by Harper, the umpire, and England's victory celebrations begin. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

full on the boot by another reverse-swinging yorker, was dispatched by Daryl Harper. Gough, shamelessly and theatrically, stood with fist raised and clenched, bellowing at the skies, while bedlam ensued.

Headley, who had begun the day as a brief and hapless nightwatchman and ended it with easily his best Test bowling figures, had tears in his eyes as he was swamped by a group of team-mates, reinforced by an invasion of nonplayers and staff - also, appropriately, by David Lloyd, a coach who deserves to bow out next summer with people thinking rather more kindly of

This was not the beginning of a new England, nor even the end of the old. These are things that have been said and heard before, always with hollow consequences. What this win achieved was a stay of exe cution in a series that had apparently offered only its dog days for consolation and an injection of such stimulants as self-esteem too often prohibited to them.

For much of the game, England had toyed with the business of winning. They should have made more runs in their first innings and they should have prevented Australia obtaining a lead. But early on the third playing day, Eng-land's second innings was all but derailed and Australia looked sure to proceed to a 3-0 margin that could almost routinely be increased in Sydney

At 127 for five, England led by only 57 and their last two baismen worthy of the name were together. Alec Stewart and Mark Ramprakash having departed to soft dismissals. It was all too possible to envisage them setting a target of fewer than 100 and being beaten without the need for tea.

When Nasser Hussain was out, uppercutting Nicholson to cover after a half-century of

had been added, a glimmer of hope on a murky horizon. The events that transformed England's position, however, were an innings of consequence from a man who has stood accused of making runs only when it hardly matters and a considerable cameo from someone who was thought by Australians to be incapable of

Graeme Hick, who would not have been here but for the fitness problems of Graeme Thorpe has usurped John Crawley in the middle order and will retain the place after making 60 with some of the clumping conviction that he

making runs at all.

cricket. He was ninth out, to a devilish yorker from Damien Fleming, with England 151 ahead. The partnership of Angus Fraser and Alan Mullally did not promise to delay Australia long. Mullally, after all, had made five noughts in six innings, his only scoring shot in the series involuntary. McGrath has spoken freely

of targeting such players, of sweeping them aside. He attempted it now, but with an inflated and inappropriate show of machismo that finally, belatedly, earned him a public rebuke from the match

Mullally grinned back cheer-

Michael Slater tried to win the game in record time, as is his wont. Headley conceded 23 runs quickly and his third over would also have been his last if he had not produced a ball of minimal bounce to catch Slater so palpably in front that he walked before Steve Bucknor could adjudge him leg-before.

Mulially, summoned as first change, immediately had Mark Taylor caught at long leg, playing the type of distracted shot to which he referred disparagingly after the game. but Langer and Mark Waugh took the score to 103, the target down to 72. Langer's dismissal was the key, not only because he had begun to play confidentbut also because it came through a spectacular, one-handed catch by Ramprakash at square leg. It was a catch to inspire dreams and banish fatigue, just what this downtrodden team required.

Waugh, brothers though, looked in little trouble and at 130 for three it was only a matter of whether the contest would end before time and light ran out. "Everyone in the

ground thought we had it won at that point," Taylor said. Not Headley, though. This engaging Brummie has been the epitome of modern England cricket, capable of great beights and dire depths, but now he was on top of his bowling, his line disciplined and his length challenging. In rapid succession, Mark Waugh, Lehmann and Healy edged catches and Fleming was legbefore. Headley had taken four for four in 14 balls and Australia were 140 for seven.

For eight overs, spanning 40 minutes, Steve Waugh and Nicholson chipped away at the shortfall until it looked so manageable that they could hardly out out of the available extra time. It mattered not a jot that England had been unfairly extended, to the point where Stewart removed the bails in a forlorn attempt to enforce a

But Waugh had got it wrong and, soon, he was to err again. Had he seen Australia home he would have been a worthy man of the match, once more the national hero for a day. Instead, he was left to more with his self-recriminations while England noisily celebrated one of the most extraordinary of wins, even by their

Sound of silence increases the delight in victory



ngland can have gained few sweeter victories than that of yesterday in Melbourne. as typical English conditions, with the ball moving about in the air and off the seam, than a Test match on It cannot be helped that the Ashes are beyond recovery. This was a wonderful, heart-warming win, a triumph for Test cricket, still the purest form of the game, as well as for

Alec Stewart and his side. There remains nothing more pleasurable to England cricketers than the "sound" of a silent Australia dressing-room, especially when its occupants are as sturined as they must have been yesterday evening. There is still no rivalry, you see, that quite matches the oldest rivalry of all, which began on this very same Melbourne paddock 121 years ago, when Dave Gregory's Australia side played James Lillywhite's England side in the first of all Test matches.

Generally speaking, the Mel-bourne ground has been good to England, partly because the pitch gives their bowlers they help they usually need, and also, perhaps the Melbourne weather so often has an English flavour to it. Ironic though it may seem, a Mel-

bourne Test match is more likely to be played in what were once known

England today. As fine a piece of medium-paced bowling as I ever saw, in England or Australia, was by Alec Bedser at Melbourne in the second Test match

some of the heavily covered pitches in

The secretary of the Melbourne Cricket Club at the time was Vernon Ramsford, who compared Bedser's bowling that day to S. F. Barnes's legendary five for 44 in the second Test match of 1911-12, a match in which Ramsford himself had played. For ball after ball on the first morning in 1950-51, the great Neil Harvey was un-

able to lay a bat on the great Bedser. As often as not, a target of 200 in the fourth innings on the MCG takes plenty of getting. In 1950-51, for example, England, needing only 179 to win, fell 28 runs short. John Warr, the Middlesex bowler, who was a member of that England touring party, had to leave the ground, unable, any longer, to watch the agonising struggle. Yesierday the drama was less pro-

tracted. Coasting to victory at one

JOHN WOODCOCK



Ashes Commentary

moment, even taking victory for granted, Australia were suddenly swept away before sensing what was astir. Immunity from deleat, or the perception of it, can be a dangerous

So now, by a happy chance, the name of Headley appears on the pavilion honours boards both at Melbourne and Sydney, Dean for his six for 60 for England in the swoop yesterday and George, his famous grandfather, for his 105 for West Indies against Australia in the Sydney Test match in 1930-31. And Melbourne has thrown up another riveting game of cricket.

Sir Len Hutton used to say that he never liked playing cricket at Mel-bourne, basically because he thought of it as a football ground, which it is. Owing to that, maybe, he never got a Test hundred there. Colin Cowdrey, on the other hand, got three, and Jack Hobbs, five. Lord Cowdrey of Tonbridge likened the finish yesterday to a school house match, with all the wild excitement but none of the breathless hush.

Having seen the first three Test matches of this present series, and witnessed the derision to which England have been subjected by the Australian press and public, I know how much this victory will mean both to the England party and the singularity of the Ashes. David Lloyd will have enjoyed being able to say: The Australians have a little bit of a history of folding when they are un-der pressure in the fourth innings of a match." The indomitable Gough

M.P. Rampo N. Hussain. G.P. Thorps A.J. Stawart

Australia

Hick is recognised at last, I hope, as the member of the side with the most to offer.

mouthed at him, then sur-

vived two blatant attempts at intimidating him from round

the wicket. When McGrath

corrected line, though not tem-per, Mullally hit him back

over his head for four twice in

before McGrath got his man

and these were runs that can

be said to have won the game. Certainly, they extended the

target into a sensitive area.

one that has tripped up these

Australians before, and it gave

renewed impetus to England's

four seam bowlers as they

emerged for what each one.

knew would be a debilitating

The last wicket yielded 23

One of the most memorable of all England victories over Australia - at the Oval in 1902 - came after the Ashes had been lost.

This, therefore, is also a day to remember and at which to rejoice, before the teams move on to Sydney, there to end the rubber.

It was at Sydney in 1987 that I felt genuinely pleased when Australia ended a long and seriously depressing run of defeats by bearing Mike ting's side in the last match of a series they had already lost, a sentiment for which I was roundly rebuked, not least by the England

captain. Although we didn't know it at the time, that was the day when Australia, under Allan Border, became a force again. England, too, rose in

their agony yesterday.
In doing so they gave us all a lovely new year fillip and ensured that, when the last Test starts on Saturday, there will, after all, be much to play

SERIES AVERAGES

When will Australia ever learn?

BY PAT GIBSON

SO ENGLAND did not need all those fitness trainers and psychologists to show them the way to beat Australia after all. The winning formula was blindingly obvious to any student

of recent Ashes history. All they had to do was examine the records of the past three series to realise that their seemingly invin-cible adversaries are there for the taking once they have retained the Ashes and been asked to chase a

victory target. It was Ian Botham who first exposed Australia's Achilles' heel in those unforgettable back-to-back Tests at Headingley and Edgbaston in 1981. Each time they thought victory was a formality, but Botham made them pay for their arrogance. First his heroics with the bat set them to score 130 and they collapsed to III all out then he took five for II as they were skittled out for

121 in pursuit of 151. The problem seemed to have been resolved when Australia began their winning Ashes streak by successfully chasing modest targets twice in their 4-0 triumph in England in 1989 and three times in successive Tests at home in 1990-91, but it resurfaced in

England in 1993. They went to the Oval for the sixth and final Test with a 40 lead in the series, only to be outplayed by England. They needed 391 to win and were bowied out for 229.

Two years later they arrived in Adelaide for the fourth Test with an unassailable 20 lead in the series and collapsed to 156 all out, chasing 263. Then, in 1997, they returned to the Oval with the Ashes again secured by a 3-1 lead, and, needing 124 to win, were bowled out for 104.

Now it has happened again to wipe those smug smiles off Australian faces. When will they ever learn?

ENGLAND: First invings M A Atherton c Healy b McGrath...0 (3min, 5 bells)
*A J Stowart b MacGill.

(212min, 160 belts, 16 lours) M A Butcher c Langer b McGrath...0 (8min, 7 balls) N Hussain e Heely b Nichotson ... 19 (83min, 56 balls, 2 lours)

(c.snat, 50 dates, 2 (0.05)

M R Remprakash
c McGrath b S R Waugh.......63
[119mn, 92 balls, 5 lours]
G A Hick c Fleming b MacGit.....39
(83mn, 67 balls, 1 six, 3 lours)
† W K Hegg c Heaty b S R Waugh.3
[11mn, 5 balls]

(1 mm, 5 balls)

D W Headley c Taylor b McGrath-14 (52min, 49 balls) D Gough b MacGill... (21mm, 14 balls, 2 lours) A R C Fraser not out (11mm, 2 balls) A D Mullally low b MecGill

(3min, 5 balls) Extras (fb 7, w 1, nb 6). Total (76 overs, 309rain). FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 (Slewart 0). 24 (Stewart 4), 3-81 (Stewart 54), 4-200 Remprehesh 61), 5-202 (Hick 0), 6-208 Hick 1), 7-244 (Hick 25), 8-268 (Gough

8), 9-270 (Fraser 0). BOWLING: McGrath 22-5-64-3, Flam-ing 19-3-71-0; Nicholson 10-0-59-1, MacGit 19-2-61-4; S.R. Waugh 6-2-8-2.

Second Innings

M A Atherton b Fleading (8mm, 9 bals)
"A J Stewart e Stater b MacGit...
(120mm, 98 bals, 4 fours)
M A Butcher c Stater b MacGit...

FULL FINAL SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE (21min, 15 balls) N Hussain & Slater b Micholson (157min, 131 balls, 6 fours)

(157min, 131 bate, 6 fours) M R Ramprakash b Nichotson (68mm, 43 bate) G A Hick b Florning (123ms1, 82 bate, 8 fours)

(21mm, 15 balls, 3 fours) Extrac (b 2, b 4, nb 11)... Total (80.2 overs; 333min).



Stewart: triumphant

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5 (Sewart 3), 2-61 (Slewart 49), 3-66 (Slewart 49), 4-78 (Hussam 3), 5-127 (Hussam 34), 5-178 (Hok 31), 7-202 (Hick 45), 8-221 (Hick 60), 9-221 (Fraser 0).

BOWLING: McGrath 20.2-5-56-2 (rb. 6; 5 lours; 5-1-23-0; 1-0-3-0; 7-3-10-1; 6-1-12-0; 1-2-0-8-1); Fleening: 17-4-45-2 (rb. 1; 5 lours; 6-2-12-4; 4-0-11-0; 3-1-13-0; 4-1-9-1); Nicholson 15-4-58-3 (7 fours; 4-1-11-0; 5-1-21-1; 6-2-24-2); MacGM 27-3-81-3 (rb. 4; 6 fours; 16-2-44-2; 5-1-16-0; 6-0-21-1); M E Waugh 1-1-0-0.

SCORING NOTES: Fourth Day: Lunch: 174-5 (60 overs, 242mm; Hus-sain 50, Hick 30) All out at 3 11pm, tea

AUSTRALIA: First Innings *M Å Taylor e Hick b Gough

(315min, 197 balls, 13 fours)

(2min, 2 balls) Extres (b 4, b 6, nb 11)...

Total (98.3 overs, 452min).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13 (Taylor 3), 2-26 (Langer 7), 3-98 (Langer 38), 4-127 (S R Waugh 22), 5-151 (S R Waugh 51), 7-235 (S R Waugh 65), 8-252 (S R Waugh 77), 9-340 (S R Waugh 122). 90WLBRC: Gough 28-7-96-5; Haedley 25-3-86-0; Mullally 21.3-5-64-3; Ram-praisesh 2-0-6-0; Fraser 22-0-76-2. Second Innings M J Stater Rw b Headley (25min, 23 balls, 3 fours)



Steve Waugh: not out

(Sitter, 2 belle) G D McGrath liber to Gough. (Smin, 2 bells) Extrass (b 4, lb 1, nb 4) Total (46.4overs, 248min)_ FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31 (Taylor 10), 2-41 (Langer 1), 3-103 (M E Waugh 29), 4-130 (S R Waugh 12), 5-140 (S R Waugh 18), 6-140 (S R Waugh 18), 7-140 (S R Waugh 18), 8-161 (S R Waugh 29), 9-162 (S R Waugh 30). BOWLING: Gough 18.4-2-64-2 (rb 1; 4 tours; 5-1-13-0, 20-11-0, 8 4-1-30-2); Handley 17-4-60-6 (rb 3; 5 tours; 7-1-34-1, 10-3-25-5); Mutally 10-4-20-2 (1 tour; one spell); Praner 4-0-23-0 (3 tours; one spell). Total match attendance: 97,454, Match Award: D W Headley. Unspirest S.A. Buckner and D.J. Harper. Third unspires: G.D. Morrow. Match ref-Third umpire: G D Montow. Mile erge: J R Reid (New Zestend) SERIES DETAILS: First (Brisbane)

(41min, 29 balls) S C G MacGRI b Gough.

TEST TO COME: Fish (Sydney) Janu-Complied by Bill Frindsi

351 312 66 271 175 27 196 18 HS Avgs 180 122" 98.50 2 179" 58.42 1 51" 49.60 0 134 40.40 1 113 38.57 2 51" 25.75 0 71" 23.75 0

Headley bowls himself into Ashes history

Michael Henderson relives four draining hours

that saw England snatch a famous victory

n the afterglow of the much-needed victory in Melbourne yesterday, it is necessary to get one thing clear. Australia badly wanted to win. Their batsmen may have perished in slapdash fashion, chasing runs to finish the game with a day to spare, but these cricketers are not a sentimental bunch. They would have liked nothing more than to go to Sydney for the final Test 3-0 up, as Mark Taylor made plain afterwards. Therefore, give England credit for their efforts.

arhieved against expectation, local and international. They had the worst of things, after losing the toss and batting first in conditions helpful to the quicker bowlers, conceding a first-innings deficit and then groping around be-fore managing to set Australia a re-

speciable target. They needed a break or two ble four-hour session after tea. It was a period of intense, increasingly draining cricket that exhausted the spectators, never mind the players. Casti-gated for their lack of spirit so far on this tour, England stuck at it and, by winning, offered

If they are honest, however, and they ought to be, or they have learnt nothing, they will be cursing their wretched per-formance at Adelaide. A win at the MCG, excellent as it is. and Headley was wearing his cannot erase the memory of serious hat - he feels that this

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BEL STEEL

that abdication. Had they batted there like proper Test players, instead of nincompoops, they would be going to Sydney level, with all to play for. They have won a game fine. How much nicer it would be to salute the seizing of the series.

It truly was the longest day. That last session began at 3.32pm and the clock showed 7.33pm when Gough pinged McGrath on the instep to take the final wicket. Gough deserved no less, for he had bowled superbly in the first innings, with skill and heart, and was not flattered by his figures. He enjoys his cricket in

this time he had something

Gough returned to the at-

tack at 6.05pm. Headley had

come on at 5.48pm, so he was

entitled to feel a shade more

weary, not that he minded

much. "We do care" he said,

responding to those who have chided the team in recent

weeks. There were three or

four people out there at the

end who were close to tears."

But that's enough of Lord

MacLaurin of Knebworth and

his merry band. Seriously -

special to show for it.

they will come out fighting in Sydney, where they came close to winning four years ago in a match recalled for Gough's sparkling half-century, Fras-er's five wickets and Atherton's declaration when Hick was two runs short of a centu-Fraser, summoned to join that team from club cricket, may not play there this time.

is a good team who have not

punched their weight on this

tour. If that is so, no doubt

He has enjoyed a superb year against West Indies and South Africa but, on the turning pitch that Sydney offers, there is an obvious need If he never takes another quicker bowlers with a spinner, in wicket in Tests, Headley Given Headley's six wickets here.

Fraser will proba-

will long recall this day? bly be the man to make way. If he never takes such an unaffected way and another wicket in Tests, Headley will long recall this day. He began it as a nightwarchman, though his beat did not last beyond the third over of the morning. Then, when it was time to bowl, he had to purge the memory of his wick-

etless first innings. "I work hard at my bowling but there are some days when you don't get it right," he said. He thought he bowled well in the first imings and was hope-ful when he ran in for a second go, with runs at a premium.
"When teams have a low total to chase you have to take ten wickets. What I tried to do was hit the deck on a good length."

Slater, giving himself our leg-before, was his first wicker in an opening spell that gave no hint of the drama that followed. Australia were 130 for three, and intent on wrapping things up, when Mark Waugh popped a catch into Hick's big hands at second slip. It was the first of five wickets that Headley took inside 37 balls.

"I was tired but I got a wicket and if anything can lift you other one." In the end it became a procession. Even Healy, that obdurate little chap. was powerless to resist on this occasion. Nicholson, the new boy, did his best but when he tickled a thin un to Hegg the path was clear for Gough to mop up the two Macs. After the many disappoint-

ments that they have suffered on this tour, at last England had something to celebrate.



Headley, sensing that England were back in with a chance, celebrates the fall of Healy, smartly caught by Hick

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Jacksonville

Eastern division

1 0 556 296 5 0 408 319 8 0 314 295 11 0 306 378 12 0 276 368

BOWLS

DARTS

NY Jets 12 4 0 416 1 Buffelo 10 5 0 400 1 Marri 10 6 0 321 1 New England 9 7 0 331 Indianapolis 3 13 0 310

SPORT

Priestley caught unawares by Ferrell

B DARTS: John Ferrell, 37, the left-hander from Rochester, pulled off the biggest surprise of the tournament to date when he beat Dennis Priestley, the former champion, in three straight sets in the first round of the Skol PDC world championship at Purfleet, Essex, yesterday. "I've played Dennis three times and I've won all three,' Ferrell said. "I guess you could call me his bogey player. I beat him 9-7 after being 7-4 down in the world matchplay at Blackpool earlier this year and I also beat him in Boston the year before last."

Ferrell, who drives a taxi in Surrey, had four 180s during the three sets, including two in one leg, and he was far more decisive when it came to hitting the doubles. Priestley might have won the third set. which he lost by three legs to one, but he missed two doubles in the third leg and four more in the fourth.

E RUGBY UNION: Georgia, who play Tonga in the repechage competition for entry into the 1999 World Cup, are to take part in the Weish Rugby Union Challenge Trophy. They are taking the place of Namibia and will play their first game in the competition when they meet Aberavon at the Talbot Athletic Ground on January 9. The Georgians were beaten 70-0 by Ireland in a pool I match of the European qualifiers in November. Almost half their squad play in France and they also have French coaching and fitness advisers.

FOOTBALL: Oxford United's match against Sunderland on February 27 will be the first competitive league match in this country to be screened via pay-per-view. Manchester City's trip to Colchester United on March 20 has also been earmarked for exclusive live coverage, on Sky Box Office, with 6pm kick-offs.

HOCKEY: The Scottish Sports Council and the National Lottery have refused to provide funding to Glasgow Western, Scotland's leading club, which will become the first British dub to stage the European women's indoor February 26 to 28.

South Africa ease to convincing win

The strain shows on Stewart's face as Headley urges on Gough, who dismissed McGrath two balls later

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SOUTH AFRICA cruised to a nine-wicker victory in the third Test in Durban yesterday to take an unbeatable 30 lead against West Indies. The home side were set 146 for victory on the fourth day, after dismissing West Indies for 259 in their second innings in the sixth over of the day, and Gary Kirsten, with 71 not out. guided his team to victory 45 minutes before tea.

West Indies resumed their second innings on 246 for eight and quickly succumbed. In the third over Ambrose was caught by Hansie Cronje at mid-on for five, which provided Shaun Pollock with his fifth wicket of the innings. He finished with five for 83. Alian Donald finished with three for 62 after ending the innings by bowling Courtney Walsh for

South Africa's surge to victowas given the perfect start Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs, who put together a 97-rum stand for the first wicker. The opening pair were virtually untroubled in taking South Africa to within 49 runs

The only scare came two balls before funch, when Gibbs swept a delivery from Rawl Lewis, the leg spinner, high into the air towards midwicket, where Darren Ganga waited to take a simple catch. But Jacobs, the wicketkeeper, came sprinting out from behind the stumps to claim the catch — and spilt it.

The opening partnership ended 25 minutes after lunch when Gibbs was trapped in front by Carl Hooper, the off. spinner, for 49. Kirsten went on to score his seventeenth Test half-century off 123 balls and with six fours. Franklyn Rose, who nok

career-best figures of seven for 84 in the first imnings, shared the new ball with Curtly Ambrose. The West Indies attack suffered a serious blow in the eighteenth over when Walsh the veteran fast bowler, left the field with an injured hamstring after bowling just four overs. Jonty Rhodes, the South Africa batsman, was named

man of the match for his defiant 87 in the first innings. The teams now move on to Cape Town, where the fourth Test starts at Newlands on New Year's Day, with Lance Klusener, the all-rounder who has been out of the squad since returning from South Africa's tour of England with an ankle injury, replacing Par Symcox in the South Africa XII.

SCOREBOARD WEST INDIES: First brancs 198 (B) C Lara

Second Imminge A POUR C (SIDES D PORTES E L'Ambross c Cronje b Polices A Welsh b Donald tras (b 12, w.2, nb 8)

FALL OF WICKERS 1-17, 241, 3-201, 4-201, 5-204, 6-213, 7-214, 8-245, 9-252 - DOWNERS DOWNER DE 18-4-253, Policie 19-1-31-1, Symoox 12-3-43-0. SOUTH AFRICA: First invings 312 U.N. Rhodes 87; F.A. Rose 7 for 80. Second Innings

Total (1 wkb-FALL OF WICKET: 1-07. Men of the match: J N Phodes (South

ICC urged to limit Test series

NEW ZEALAND is to call for an end to Australia's fivematch cricket series against England and the West Indies when a Test world champion-ship is discussed next week. Chris Doig, the New Zealand Cricket chief executive. will take a proposal to an international Cricket Council meeting in Christchurch supporting a world title to be decided over a four-year cycle.

Doig said that the traditional series - the Ashes and the Frank Worrell Trophy - will remain as part of the champi-onship ladder but might be cut down from five to threematch series.
The traditional series are essential, but we want to

cricket," Doig said. The suggestion is that at the end of the four-year period, the top two teams would figure in a play-off to determine Mark Wangh, the Australia batsman, is still unsure whether he will appear next month at an investigation into

regularise tours and give

some context to Test-match

alleged bribery and match-fixing in Pakistan cricket. Waugh was summonsed, along with the spin bowier, Shane Warne, and the former Australian Cricket Board chairman, Alan Crompton, to appear before the inquiry after the two players admitted taking money from an illegal Indian bookmaker on a tour of the sub-continent in 1994, but he said he is still discussing the matter with lawyers.

Kenya's national cricket team has turned professional, five months before the World. Cup, after completing a \$130,000 (£82,000) sponsorship deal, spanning five years, with East African Breweries

India hopes are finely balanced

By Our Sports Staff

THE second Test match between New Zealand and India in Wellington was poised on a knife edge after a century by Sachin Tendulkar lifted the touring party and the home side lost four wickets for 73 as they chased 213 to win.

The final day was set to be a lottery with New Zealand needing only 130 runs more for victory, but still under pressure, and Nathan Astle will bat only if required after fracturing a bone in his left hand during the final session. New Zealand dismissed In-

dia for 356 in their second innings, of which Tendulkar scored III. But New Zealand buckled under some fine bowiing from Javagal Srinath and the leg spinner, Anil Kumble. New Zealand made a disap-

SCOREBOARD Second Immos

A Kumble c Nesh b verse 27
J Smith not out 27
B K V Passad c and b Asse 5
K V Passad c and b Asse 5
K V Passad c and b Asse 5
K Smith L Tome b McMillen 1
Extras (b 3, 1b 1, w 1, nb 5) 10

TOTAL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-74, 3-112, 4-200, 5-297, 5-304, 7-304, 8-346, 9-349, 8-346, 9-349, 8-346, 9-349, 8-346, 9-349, 8-346, 9-349, 8-346, 9-349, 8-346, NEW ZEALAND: First hinings 352 (Nesh 89, D.L. Veston 57; A Kumble 4 for 83). Second Immos M D Bell C Drawd b Smeth ...
M J Home bw b Kumble ...
S P Fleming b Yamble ...
N J Agile eight dhaft ...
C D McMillan not out ...
FA C Pacce and out ...

son me ugures appeared 100

pointing start to the chase when the opening bassman. Matthew Bell, was caught at short leg without scoring off the third hall of the innings. Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, and Matthew Home added 42 runs in 12 overs before Fleming was bowled by Kumble, without

playing a shot, for 17, and then Astle was forced to retire after being struck on the back of the hand by a short-pitched ball from Srinath. There was more bad news when Horne and Adam Parore were dismissed in the

closing overs, leaving Craig McMillan unbeaten on 17 and the nightwatchman, Paul Wiseman, yet to score as the not out batsmen. The New Zealand coach, Ste ve Rixon, remained confident that his team could win. "We "Arianta 14 2 1 San Francisco 12 4 New Orleans 6 10 Carolina 4 12 Si Louis 4 12 have still got four capable bats-

men left and I am optimistic," he said. "I would like to think the current partnership would continue for a while and with the strike power of Cairns, Nash and Daniel Vettori to come, I am quietly confident we can still win." Dion Nash, who scored 89

BLACKPOOL: Boddingtons Newton Hall International Classic: Second round: Group At K. Hewes (Eng) to M. Lecke (Blackpool) 21-11; S. McLesh (Scot) to J. Beker (En. 21-17; McLesh to Hawes 20-16, Leshe to Baker 21-10; Hawes to Baker 21-12, McLesh to Hawes to Baker 21-12, McLesh to Hawes to Baker 21-12, McLesh to Leshe 21-12 Group B. C. McAllester (Scot) to S. Keansley (Blackpool) 21-18. A Memose (Scot) to D. Ward (Blackpool) 21-20. Memose bi McAllester 21-18, Keansley to Ward 21-16; Ward to McAllester 21-18, Memose bi Keansley 19-14. Group C. J. Contar(Scot) to M. Dyer (Eng) 21-13, J. Shaw (Walson) to D. Hurti (Eng) 21-14, Hurt to Contar-21-12. Dyer to Shaw 21-10. Group D. C. Johnson (Blackpool) of G. Milles (Walso) 21-16. The Second Contart of Glackpool) of G. Milles (Walso) 21-16. The Second Contart of Glackpool) of G. Milles (Walso) 21-16. The Second Contart of Glackpool) of G. Milles (Walso) 21-16. The Second Contart of Glackpool) of G. Milles (Walso) 21-16. The Second Contart of Contart of Glackpool) of G. Milles (Walso) 21-16. The Second Contart of C in the first innings, will be particularly important to New Zealand hopes. He gave his side a shiff of victory just after lunch when he dismissed Tendulkar and the India captain, Johnson (Blackpool) of G Miles (Wales) 21-16: B Rawclife (Blackpool) of B Nask (Blackpool) 21-20: Miles to Trask (Blackpool) 21-20: Miles to Trask 19-18, Raw-clife bed with Johnson 18-18. Mohammad Azharuddin, in the space of seven runs. Tendulkar was in a helliger-

ent mood in the morning before deservedly reaching his seventeenth Test century but. surprisingly, only his first against New Zealand. When he offered a simple slip catch to Fleming, his dismissal triggered a batting collapse and india lost their last six wickets for 59 runs. .

FOR THE RECORD

Coggris bi C Whiley 3-1: D Etherington bi D' Solly 3-1, T Hankey bi A Fordhern 3-1, R Barneveld (Holf) bit B Yeomans 3-2, R Woodows bi A Smith 3-0, S Palfrey (Wales) bit C Morit 3-2, L Patinyman bit M Barnard 3-1, Charter-Bruille: Maniley bi Coggris 2-0; Hankey bit Etherington 2-1, Barneveld bit Wictiows 2-1, Patinyman bit Patitey 2-1 Sermi-Brailet: Maniley bit Hankey 2-0 Barneveld bit Patineyman 2-0, Final: Borneveld bit Maniley 2-0 Barneveld bit Patineyman 3-0, it Smith bits C Gulliver bit D Batternan 3-0, it Smith to C Howard 3-2, S Duffy bit M Sutton 3-0; T Wright bit A Jones 3-2, Sermi-Brailes: Gutliver bit Smith 3-2, Winght bit Duffy 3-0. Final: Gutliver bit Winght 3-1.

FOOTBALL FOOTBALL, CONFERENCE: Stevenage 2

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division PONTRY'S LEAGUE CUP: Group tive: Bury 1 Oldham 2

IOFF IRISH LEAGUE: First divi-Postponed: Dungarnon Switt: v

HOCKEY

ICE HOCKEY MATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Bullato 4 New Jersey 7, Discous 2 Anghern 2, Washington 5 Sosson 1, Detrol 4 St Loue 4, Plonde 5 NY Is-landers 1, Dallas 1 Nashirile 0, Phogre 2 Los Angeles 4, San Jose 1 Philadelphia 1.

NORDIC SKIING

OBERWIESENTHAL, Germany: Com-bined sprint World Cup event (prripring Gistance in brackets). I H Manneren (Fin) 193 5ml 19mm 49 7aec. 2. K Brasten (Nov.) 195 5j. 1.3esc back, 3. S Lajunen (Fin) 195 5j. 343. 4. A Harmann (Swaz) 63 0. 1965) 1.489c tach, 192 5l, 343, 4. A Harmann (Swizz et ol. 49.2, 5. FB Luncherg (Non (87.5), 54 4 Overall standings (alics seven events) 1. Marninen (855cls: 2, Vil. 825, 3. F Gotpwald (Austra) 515, 4 Rygl 438, 5, Hartmann 420

LEICESTER

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Leading scorers: 218: J Schuster (Harlequins, 4 nee, 18 conversors: 54 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal), 184: K Logan (Masp. 8; 22c. 36pg) 174: G Johnson (Saracers, 6; 30c. 25pg) 180: J Stransky (Leosetier 5; 30c. 25pg) 181: M Catl (Bath, 1, 22c. 34pg) 148: J Wilsonson (Newcaster 4t, 27c. 24pg) 148: J Wilsonson (Newcaster 4t, 27c. 24pg) 148: J Wilsonson (Newcaster 4t, 27c. 25pg) 121: S Howard (Section: 3, 23c. 15pg) 108: M Aspetiol; Gloucaster 4t, 11c. 21pg, 10g) 98: J Maustand (London Somish: 6c. 25pg) Tries: 9: N Back (Leosetier), J Guscott (Bath) 7: B Deneel (Saracers), D Luger (Harlequins), O O'Nichrony (Bedford), T Underwood (Newcastle) ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIER

wood (Newcastle)
JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Leading scorrer: 240: S Swindels
(Marchester: 2 tres: 37 conversors, 52
perally gools) 146:: G foregory (Camberley:
2), 17c, 33gg, 1 dropped goal) 146:: D
Pears (Mharredale: 41, 9c, 31gg, 30g), 137:
C Allorson (Notingham 11, 15c, 34gg)
123: M Bron (Birmangham 50 fitual; 2, 2fc,
25gg), Trites & D Machael (Peacing), it is
Burgon (Manchester), P Davies (Henky), L
Fispo (Diley), G Sharp (Henky), 7: B Rowlard (Peacing), M Septiton (Liverpool 9) Helens), B Startind (Camberley)

BORNIO, Imby: Men's World Cup down-hill: 1. Hidser (Austra) 1mn 54 51sac. 2. F. Strob. (Austra) 1mn 54 51sac. 2. F. Strob. (Austra) 155 21. 3. S. Eberharrer (Austria) 155 21. 3. S. Eberharrer (Austria) 155 94. 5. W Franz, (Austra) 155 95. 6. H. Tonki (Austra) 155 22. 3. S. W Franz, (Austra) 156 59. 6. D. Tonki (Austra) 156 63. 9. D. Cuche (Swez) 156 56. Ho. Schrifterer (Austra) 156 63. 9. D. Cuche (Swez) 156 56. 10. A Schrifterer (Austra) 156 69. 11. P. Hangpalder (II) 156 83. 12. P. Rzehair (Austra) 156 84; 13. A Fatton (II) 157 15. 14. A Hoftmann (Swiz) 157 21. S. A Denenaz (Fi) 157-51. Overall downhill standings: 1. K. Az. (Nor) 2300s. 2. Maer 210. 3. Franz 185. 4. K. Ghedina (Italy) 162, 5. L. Chitaneo (II) 120; 6. Snobl 116. 7 equal. Schlierer (Krauzs, both 108. 9. Eberharter 103. 10. KA Armook (Nor)
Overall World Cup standings: 1. Maer 640pte. 2. Kaps 537. 3. Eberharter 513. 4. C. Mayer (Austra) 425. 5. Aamook 425. 6. Uneuss 289. 7. Schrifterer 280, 8. Franz 243. 9. 7 Stangassanger (Austra) 216. 10 M Von Gruenigen (Switz) 210

SQUASH

PSA RANKINGS: Men: 1, P Nator (Scot); 2 J Power (Carl, 3, A Barada (Egypt), 4, P Johnson (Engl. 5, D Jenson (Aus); 5, M Heath (Scot), 7, R Eyick (Aus); 8, A Gough (Walos); 9, S Parke (Engl; 10, A Hill (Aus).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Rick-off 7.30 unless stated PURPLEET: Stol World championship:
First round (Eng urises stated): S Brown
(LS) bit K Spotes 3-1; C Lazarenko bit D Alsop (LS) 3-0. M Merming bit D Ladey (US)
3-1; G Stocker bit S Paw 3-1; R Hampion
bit A Roy 3-0; S Burgess bit S Cummings
(Carl) 3-0. D Smith bit P Existen 3-0; P
Markey bit E Bristow 3-0.
PARAGON MOTEL, London: British
Open: Metr Tain'd round (England unless
stated): P Markey bit M Freeman 3-0; R Dundes United v Rangers (7.45) Hearts v Dundes (60). PONTINS LEAGUE CUP: Group One: Hanlepool v Middlesbrough (7 0) SMIPHOFF THISH LEAGUE: Pres division: Ballymena v Crusaders: Por

FAI HARP LAGER LEAGUE CUP: Final, second leg: Cork (1) v \$12mrock (1)(1.30).

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy: Leices-fer Riders v Derby Storm (8.0). HOCKEY: Women's under-21 regional sournement (NHC, Millon Keynes): South v North, Midlands v West; South v West; North v Midlands.

ICE HOCKEY: Superlangue: Manches ler Storm v Nawcastle Piverkings (7 0).

thi

Dicing with death on Horror to make you laugh the road to Dakar

Mel Webb meets the men who are about to risk life and limb in the toughest motor-sport event of all

they insist they are not mad. From the way they talk, it is as though they are about to embark on nothing more than a pleasant motorcycle ride for a few days. You play along with them, talk to them, listen to them and, against your better judgment. you begin to be convinced. And then, in the space of no

more than ten minutes, one of them reveals that he is seriously thinking of becoming a film stunt man and another confides that when he is not riding his bike he loves nothing more than engaging in a spot of sky-diving. It is their undoing. You now know that your original instinct was right all along: they are, assuredly, insane: wonderfully, gloriously loopy.

The spot of recreational motorcycling this group of men is about to undertake, this gentle meander through rose-tinted highways and byways, is nothing less than the ultimate sporting test for rider and machine. There is something faintly symbolic in motorcyclists, nothing they the fact that they will begin their odyssey in

Granada, in Spain. on New Year's Day 6 His aim because, after this nothing they will encounter in the rest of their sportbe to ing year — iheir sporting lives, even arrive in one

will

– will measure up. To spend a day in their company is to be in the midst of people who form a brotherhood rightly knit that

ive group linked by the dice with death they are about to share. They are all competi-tors in the Dakar Rally, that most dangerous of all motorsport events; and yes, for all that they might demur. they

are totally, March-hare, mad. The rally, involving as it does 5,600 miles of some of the toughest terrain to which humankind can voluntarily subject itself, has this year attracted the biggest British contingent in its 21-year history. Competitors have lost their lives in this event; broken limbs are almost common-

It is dangerous, no matter how much they try to dismiss its manifold perils with devilmay-care smiles and in-house jokes. Scratch the surface of their Ironman however, and it is clear that they know what they are going

The company from which the rally draws its dramatis personae is the same as that which draws Richard Branson and his ilk to take to the skies suspended from a halloon full of hot air and induces others to climb mountains. Just as the air is infinite and great peaks awesome in their immensity. so the North African desert is huge and unforgiving and can wreak a terrible revenge on those who would challenge its vast, bleak, empty strength.

Answers from page 33

for riders and to the knee for pedestrians.

(meltwater) stream flowing sub-glacially.

The logistics of the event are of a grand scale. It needs 150 organising personnel, and the job of providing for the safety and welfare of the 850 competitors. 130 television people and 100 journalists will call for 40 catering staff. 35 doctors to man field hospitals, and 22 aircraft. It is a huge undertaking - it is said that when the rally is in full flow it resembles

an army going to war.

Of the one two-man Land Rover team and 14 riders based in this country - one is French but counts himself among the domestic contingent - two young men in particular will add piquancy to the UK entry. Between them, Darren Bidwell and Paul Gower have more than 25 years' service in the Army behind them, but in this enterprise they are self-confessed virgin soldiers.

Bidwell and Gower are both senior members of the Flying Gunners, the Royal Artillery motorcycle display team, and although they are career have ever encountered will

prepared Gower, 30. from Penge, in South London, is the one who is thinking of becoming a stunt man, but says he still has not made his mind, largely because "I'm a bit of a chicken". One thinks not.

piece? "It's the chance of a lifetime," he nothing will ever split them said. "I've watched the Dakar asunder, a mutually support- on television for years and wished I could be in it - if I wasn't in the iob I'm in, the opportunity to do this would have never happened. I can't

Neither, it would seem, can Bidwell, 25, who at least knows what it is like to operate in desert conditions - he had barely finished his basic training before he became one of the youngest British servicemen to serve in the Gulf War. "It's going to be tough, I know that, but no matter how hard it was. I wouldn't want to miss

upporting the two Army riders will be Staff Sergeant John Bangs, the mechanic, and the display team's commanding officer, Captain Dave Mackay, for whom this will be something of a swan-song; he leaves the Army in June. He has raised the £50,000 to enter the team and emphasises that not a penny of it has come from the public purse. "We're even doing it in our Christmas leave, so we've

got easy consciences." he said. The motorcycles that Gower. Bidwell and many other riders will be using are made by KTM, an Austrian firm that specialises in off-road bikes. Buying the huge, 660cc singlecylinder machines would be prohibitively expensive, so the team have followed the lead of



A member of the Dakar-bound British contingent puts his machine through its paces

a considerable number of their peers in taking a leasing package, an integral part of which is back-up by the manufacturers en route.

They are monsters, almost as tall as the diminutive Gower. Built-in tanks hold 44 litres of fuel and three litres of water in addition to the three litres riders carry on their backs - the desert can be blisteringly hot and dehydration is a constant enemy. Ungainly they may look, but they handle superbly, by all accounts, and are capable of anything up to 140mph.

Riders are guided by a com-bination of satellite-driven onboard global positioning systems and a road book that unrolls in concert with a scientifically calibrated tripmeter. "You can get lost, but if you use the equipment properly you shouldn't," Eric Bueno, the skydiving Frenchman who lives in London and is the courtesy Briton in the event, said. He has ridden in one Dakar Rally before, when

but he says the experience will serve him well. His aim in the coming 17

he crashed and did not finish.

Bidwell and the others, to arrive in Dakar in one piece. The one question left hanging in the air is: Why? The answer can be just as baldly summed up in the words of Edmund Hillary, the first man to climb Everest, who when asked why he had done it, replied, simply: "Recause it is there."

Those who are about to join in battle with the mean and magnificent beauty of the African desert will identify with Hillary's sentiments: the men who conquer the deadly sands will be heroes indeed.



Bidwell gets in some last-minute practice at Longmoor training camp in Hampshire

Buffy the Vampire Slayer BBC2, 8.00pm

The American schoolgirl chosen to hunt down vannpires first appeared in the cinema, an exercise in comedy-horror that proved disappointingly short on both laughs and scares. Transferred to relevision the formula has proved more successful, at least in the United States, Now British audiences can judge. Our heroine (played by Sarah Michelle Gellar of Scream 2 arrives at a new school, determined to the control of the control mined to put her vampire-killing past behind her. Some chance. On her very first day a hoy's dead body falls out of a locker, blood drained from holes in his neck. Soon afterwards young Buffy finds herself in nasty company in that favourite site of vamping to the state of the s pire attacks, a graveyard. The British actor Anthony Head, best remembered for the Gold Blend commercials, plays Buffy's mentor in an easygoing show that should keep nobody awake at night.

Babes in the Wood ITV, 10.00pm

The flat-sharing comedy resurfaces for a seasonal one-off. Babes in the Wood has promised more than it has delivered, hyped as something out of the sitcom run and turning out to be utterly mainstream and conventional. The enjoyment comes from having expectations confirmed, not confounded. The joke is that while the babes (played by Connection leave. Desire Van Curear and Nervice.) Samantha Janus, Denise Van Outen and Natalio Walter) are chronically unlucky with men, their neighbour Charlie (Karl Howman) often finds him-self the target of unwanted female attention. So it is tonight, as the women prepare for a New Year's Eve party but have no partners to share it with and Chartie is accused by an old fiame of fathering her baby. Lines such as "I'm not really a French maid, I'm from Worthing" typify the show.

A Rather English Marriage BBC2, 10.15pm

The dramatic treat of the festive season is this originant study of two elderly widowers, adapted from Angela Lambert's novel by the ubiquitous Andrew Davies and beautifully acted by Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay, Reggie (Finney) is a bluff former squadron leader still lighting the Battle of Britain, Roy (Courtenay) a humble former

Sarah Michelle Gellar, Nicholas Brendon in Buffy the Vampire Slayer (BBC2, 8pm)

milkman who had a less glamorous war. They meet at the hospital on the day their wives die and meet at the hospital on the day their wives die and despite glaring differences in class and temperament form a sort of planonic marriage, with Roy as the loyal but not entirely subservient wife/house-keeper. This unlikely but successful arrangement is threatened when the squadron leader meets a glamorous boutique owner (Joanna Lumley) and pureles transpare marriage unpayare that she may hurries towards marriage, unaware that she may only want his money.

The South Bank Show: Warren Beatty ITV, 11.10pm

It is the classic South Bank Show formula, an inter view with the subject based extensively around his latest film but also surfing his earlier career, illustrated with clips and conducted with impeccable courtesy by Melvyn Bragg. The reason that it works with Warren Beatty better than some is that Beatty has made more interesting films than most Hollywood acrors and, a rare thing, can talk articulately about them. For more than 30 years, starting with Bonnie and Clyde, he has been his own prowith Bonnie and Clyde, he has been his own pro-ducer, and sometimes he has directed as well. So like or hate his films, they are very much his own. This applies no less to his latest. Bulworth. Like sev-eral before it, it is a savage critique of American so-ciety, it's a scathing indictment of the political proc-ess delivered with Beatty's trademark mix of satire and farce.

Peter Waymark

While the whiff of cigars is still in the air and festive spirit — and spirits — have not been entirely exhausted, there will be some listeners who will have drunk a toast to Ebenezer Scrooge and his

curmudgeonly ways. I suspect they will drink another toast tonight, this one to Clare Boylan's short story, though it has nothing to with miserli-

ness. Boylan reserves her unseasonable sentiments for those office Christmas parties where things are

for those office Christinas put us where things are said and done that would be thought outrageous at any other time. Her tale, feelingly read by Pat Laffan, recounts what happens after a happily married man, sozzled at the office Christinas orgy,

climbs into the cloaks closet for some hanky-panky with an office-girl, also sozzled. Peter Davalle

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shell

\$.08am The World Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shell Colomba 7.30 Meridian Live 8.00 News 8.10 Pause for Thought 8.15 Westway 8.30 Everyworan 9.00 News, 9.48 only) News an German 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 The Farming World 9.30 Britain Now 9.46 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 One Planet 11.06 Newsdesk 11.30 Sports Review of the Year 12.00pm News 12.05 World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Seeing Stars 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newsdow 2.00 News 2.05 Onlibok 2.30 Megernix 3.00 News; (648 only) News in German 3.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Performance 3.30 Everywormen 4.00 News 4.15 From Our Own Correspondent 4.30 Insight, (648 only) News in German 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 Newsdesk 8.30 The Works; (648 only) News in German 7.00 News

6.30 The Works; (648 only) News in German 7.00 News Surmary 7.01 Outdook 7.25 Pause For Thought 7.30 Multitrack X-Press 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Bittain Today 9.30 On Screen 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Igsight 10.45 Sports Round-Up 11.00 News 11.05 Outdook 11.20 Nuttrack X-Press 12.00am Newsdesk

12.30 From Our Own Corresponden 12.45 Britain Today 1.00
Newsdeek 1.30 Ormsbus 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Meridian Books
3.00 News 3.05 World Business Report 3.15 Sports Round-Up
3.30 Brain of Britain 4,00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

RADIO CHOICE

It Didn't Mean a Thing

Radio 4, 3,45pm

Evening Concert Classic FM, 9.00pm

They're an ingenious lot, those backroom planners on radio who have to assemble a musical jigsaw. First, they pick a theme. It could be the weather, or spooks, or villains and heroes, or that reliable old standby, animals. Then they find the music that, with a bit of pushing and shoving, fits into the chosen theme. And, hey presto, they've got a programme. Tonight's Evening Concert is archetypical. All the items are, more or less, what we hear when husbands and wives, no more Classic. hear when husbands and wives, to quote Classic FM, "make beautiful music together". Think of Ioan Sutherland and her spouse the conductor Richard Bonynge flashes up on the mind's screen. Think of the soprano Angela Gheorghiu and up pops Roberto Alagna. And so on . . .

RADIO 1 (BBC)

7.00am Chris Moyles 10.00 Scott Mills 1.00pm Kevin Greening 4.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Sleve Lamaco: The Evening Session 10.00 John Peel 12.00 Gilles Peterson 2.00am Emma

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Sarah Kennedy 10.00 Pilchard Allinson 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Alex Lester 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Malo's Maverick Christmas 8.00 Alfke Herding Review of the Year 9.00 The Andy Peebles Sou Show (9/13) 10,00 Boule 66 Revisited 10.30 Bob Harris 12.00 Kastina Lestenich

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

ns A-Z of Entertainment (r) 6.00 Proops's Hoops (r) 6.30 Breatfast with Julian Wonfcler and Annie Wabster 9,00 Brian-Hayes 12,00 The Midday Naws with Altan Robb 1,00 Russoe and Co 4,00 Drive with Jonathen Legard 7,00 News Extra 7,30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Commentary on the Scottlain Premier League match between Dundee United and Rangers 9,30 Muscular Prose (f) 10,00 End of the Year Show, An entertaining look back at the year 12.00 Interesting (r) 1.00mm Up All Night 4.00 Extra Time (r)

VIRGIN

TALK RADIO

6.00am Bill Overton & Sally Meen 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00 Nancy Roberts 4.00 Peter Deeley 5.00 Sports Zone 8.00 James Whale 1.00am Gordon Astley

8.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday
10.30 Artist of the Week: Barbara Bonney in
11.00 Sound Stories: Bellets — The Unchan
Deughter Narrated by Peggy Reynolds
12.00 Composer of the Week: Saint-Saans
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
2.00 The B&C Orchestras B&C Philhamoris
3.50 The Harmonde Sarles with Afran. lack

2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philipamonic
3.50 The Harmonic Series with Adnan Jack
4.00 Choral Evensong Live from St Bride's, Fleet St
5.00 A Medieval Christmas Music for Christmas
5.30 Music Rooms with Natelle Wheen (8/10)
6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Station (8/10)

6.55 Performance on 3: The Golden Cockerel Live from Sadier's Wells, the new Royal Opera production of Rimsky-Korsakov's opera based on a story by Pushkin. Sung in Russian Act 1 7.45. The Cock and the Tsar 8.10 Acts 2 and 3 9.40 Postscript: Reading Around — The Poems of Friedrich Holderlin (3/5).

10.00 Faure (Piano Quartet No 1 in C minor, Op 15).

10.35 The Harmonic Series with Adrian Jack.

10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics (5/6).

11.30 Jazz Notes with Alyn Shipton.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Bizet (r).

1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod.

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping 5.40 Inshore
Forecast 5.45 (FM) Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today with Steve Peacock
6.00 Yoday with James Naughbe
9.00 Midweek with the Times columnist Libby Purves
9.45 (FM) Delity Service
9.45 (FM) Seriat Peter Pan and Wendy (4/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour with Sheig McClennon
11.00 Manhettan Story
11.30 Choice Grenfell New series (1/4)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours

12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours 1.00 The World at One with Guio Ham 1.30 Wildbrain The first semi-final of the wildlife ouz

2.00 Wildowant fire that sent-that of the water que 2.00 The Archers (i) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Open Secrets Dramatisation of Alice Murro's tale 3.00 Gardenars' Question Time Special (r) 3.30 The Small Ad Private Eve's small ads (r)

3.45 ft Didn't Mean A Thing See Choice
4.00 Case Notes with Graham Easton (r)
4.30 Thinking Allowed — The Larger Map
5.00 PM 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Booked!
7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row
7.45 Under One Roof by Michele Harson (r)
8.00 Theon and Us New senes of lively debates
8.45 Keyword with Mait Frei (3/4) (r)
9.00 Animals Behaving Badby (2/4)
9.30 Midweek (r) 10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime — Five Dahls
11.00 Late Night on 4: Sean Lock's 15 Minutes of
Misery New cornedy series
11.15 MiscLean: the Memorax Years
11.30 Children's Hour with Ametrong and Miller
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Restraint
of Beasts Part times of Magnus Mills's tale
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE MW 883, 909. WORLD SERVICE MW 648; LW 198 [12.48-5.65am]. CLASSIC FM FM 100-102 VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Isn Hughes, Rosemany Smith, Susan Thomson, Jame Gregory and

The best of crime drama on the screen ... on BBC1 tonight

WORD-WATCHING

(b) An outer garment of the 15th century. In length, it was short

(a) A short length of extension of the keel, tapered or cut to a step. and projecting beyond the sternpost in order to protect the

(c) A sinuous ridge of coarse gravel representing the deposits of a

(c) A tribal republic flourishing in India at the time of Buddha. The word also indicates the people, who were a confederation of

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

i. . . . Qxg5!; 2, Qxg5 Rxh3+; 3, Kg2 Rh2 checkmate.

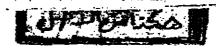
The Echo



The best of crime fiction on the page... in all good bookshops now

Read the award winning novel in paperback

The Breaker



il -5 _2 _2 } Williams 1887 D. M. V. W. ___ Eze. 14.8 to 15

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easer Breakfast 8.00 Herny Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests 2.00pm Celebrity Recitals. Jane Jones introduces a performance by the planet Melvyn Tan 3.00 James Crok. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight with John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven 9.00 Evening Concert. Handel (If God be for us, from Messah); Saint-Saans (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor), Schumann (Symphony No 1 in B fiet), Clara Schumann (Varietions on a thems by R. Schumann); Wagner (Wesendonck-Lieder); Puccini (Ma Come Puol Lascarm, from La Rondine). See Choice 11.00 Marin at Night 2.00am Celebrity Recitals (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths introduces the Early Breakfast Show



Double standards are never very far away

opinion as to what constitutes sexual relations has occupied us for almost a year now. Oh dear: only one sentence finished but already in need of a quick trim, for that word "us" has a decidedly presumptuous look about it. By "us" I mean of course the media and the American political establishment. I do not necessarily mean you and I certainly do

not mean a man in Kansas. Most of us feel he's done a good iob." Man in Kansas told Mark Lawson during The Clinton Com-plex (BBC2). "If one Monica Lewinsky can make him do that good a job, why don't we send him another one?" That remark alone guarantees that copies of the pro-gramme inadvertently reaching the White House will be burnt at

Furnny place, America. The Stars and Stripes flies in front of millions of ordinary homes and

down the road otherwise ordinary homeowners gather to have a little evening fun by petrol-bombing abortion clinics. Morally conservative, you might say. But when the President starts waving his cigar around, aw, shucks, what the hell? Which was the conundrum at the heart of the programme.

Several academics explained what the Clinton complex is and one of the more succinct put it this way: "The Clinton complex is the idea that morality is a function of proximity. If something immoral happens right in front of you, you get upset. But if it happens far away, in Washington, you just say to yourself, 'no big deal'."

Yes, I think I see how that might work. Certainly I get more upset when a yob heaves a brick through my car window than I do when I read the annual statistics for car crime. The bad news for Clinton is that all the senators who have to vote soon live not far away (from

Clinton) and nobody in Kansas has a substantive say in the maiter, except in the sense that the two senators Kansas sends to Washington could be chucked out if they chuck out Clinton (which they won't, so there).

awson's visit to Kansas and his tour of various academ-entertainment than enlightenment because by now we all know that the absurd pantomime under way on Capitol Hill is just a bunch of politicians hoping to do to Clinton one of the things he appears not to have done to Lewinsky.

We cannot, though, deny Washington its moment of sexual gratification. As one contributor told Lawson, we now have the spectacle of "stuffy old law professors" discussing over lunch how that stain got on to Lewinsky's dress. And Washington at last has a sex scandal: usually these occur in

HTV

9.35 CITV: House of Toons: Try Toon Adventures (5472837) 10.10 Brilliant Creatures (7933450)

10.35 The Shaggy Dog (TVM 1994). A

teenage science whiz's attempts at sorcery backine as he turns himself into a

1.30 My Giri (1991) Moving drame, steming Macaulay Culkin, Anna Chumsky, Dan Aykroyd and Jamie Lee Curtis, Directed

by Howard Ziefl (T) (57559295)

3.30 ITN News Headlines (T) (6875059)

3.40 Iron Will (1993) Premiere. Fact-based

drama about a youngster who competes in a gruelling cross-country dog-sled race. Mackenzie Astin stars. Directed by Charles Haid (1) (859634)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (I) (231740)

6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (1) (855301)

7.00 Emmerdate Andy spills the beans about his lather (T) (2419)

7.30 Coronation Street Alec bids farewell to

8.00 The Three Musketeers (1993)

Premiere. Disney adeptation of the classic tale, staming Charlie Sheen, Kiefer Sutherland and Oliver Platt as the

legendary French royal guardsmen, with Chris O'Donnell as D'Artagnan, Directed

6.00 Beadle's Hot Shots (641479)

6.25 HTV West Weather (259547)

6.30 The West Tonight (1) (301)

the Street (1) (585)

3.25 Castoon Time (8445498)

3.35 HTV News (T) (6867030)

12.20pm HTV News (T) (8403011) 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (54924) 1.00 Shortland Street (28672)

sleuthing sheepdag. Directed by Dennis Dugan (1) (33035634)

5.55am ITN Morning News (9235721)

6.00 GMTV (1738769)

9.25 ITN News (T) (4088498) 9.30 HTV News (T) (5979566)

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

New York or Los Angeles and the nation's capital is left with finan-cial scandals. No wonder nothing came of the Whitewater inquiry, it was too boring. Washington needed something new: for money, read sex.

The Christmas mish-mash leaves you longing for something with a bit of originality and depth so I was pleased to welcome last night's The Echo (BBC1, concludes tonight), a proper mystery that is well written, by Kevin Hood, from though and Deacon is an especialthe Minette Walters novel. The basics? Tramp found dead in Docklands garage of Amanda Powell (Joely Richardson), who is a wealthy, elegant, arractive woman from my perspective and a "stuck-up, frosty, supercilious bitch" from the perspective of tabloid photograher Lisa (Camilla

Said photographer and reporter Mike Deacon (Clive Owen) are on the case because Powell has paid for the tramp's funeral. Why? Is the tramp Powell's missing fraudster husband? Don't know, yet. My new year resolution is never to comment on television portrayals of journalists or newspapers, so I will rush to say that The Newspaper on Sunday is a risible name for a. er. newspaper. Camilla Power looks more like a model than a photographer and even tabloid reporters occasionally have a shave.

The plot is developing nicely ly well-drawn character with dark elements in his own life (he hlames himself for his father's suicidel that look likely to mesh with the main plot. By the end of episode one I was tempted to agree with "frosty" as a description of Powell, though I am not sure whether the word applies to the character or to Richardson's portrayal, which appears to be inspired by the minimalist tendency.

f The Echo was not exactly a bundle of laughs, you could always take a stroll after it and then tune in for Glorious (Channel 4). What a wonderful man is Eddie Izzard. This was his performance at the Apollo, Hammersmith, during the 1997 world tour. The evening had a theme, no less than that part of the history of mankind that is recorded in the Bible. Naturally, Izzard's brilliant lateral

thinking meant trips down umpteen alkeys to discuss everything from vacuum cleaners, Diana, Princess of Wales, and Helen of

Troy along the way.
Izzard is so well rehearsed that he sounds as if he is making it up as he goes along. Or is he so under-rehearsed that he has to make it up as he goes along? Oh, well, cither way it is a very funny act, the product of a sophisticated mind. The segment on the Creation, with God's mother rousing Him from bed on the first morning ("come on, you'll miss the best of the day ') was a terrific ramble.

Apparently God would have been better off not tving Himself to seven days: "Do it like Microsoft, it's going to be done by Sunday. Tuesday, next week: about a month; we're gonna bring it out when we're ready, right?" And I liked Izzard on Achilles: "Great man except that he had an Achilles' heel - what an irony."

7.00am News; Weather (T) (1899473) 7.10am News, wearer (1) [16894/3]
7.10 Children's BBC: The Grectysaurus Geng (6761547) 7.15 Teletubbles (5762189) 7.40 Yog's Treasure Hunt (1607276) 8.00 Blue Peter Raylew of the Year (6460189) 8.35 Taz-Menia (8072498) 9.00 Sweet Valley High (7547092) 9.25 The Fame Game (7547092) 9.55 Talled blue (0711470) (7557479) 9.55 Teletubbies (9711479)

10.20 News; Weather (T) (8112189) 10.30 The Barefoot Executive (1971) A lowly television production worker discovers his pet chimpanzee has the unusual talent of being able to spot good show formats. Comedy, starting Kurt Russell. Directed by Robert Burler (1) (35550045) evision production worker discovers

12.05pm Wipeout (T) (9740853) 12.30 Laughing for Ages (24) (T) (69856) 1.00 News; Weather (1) (2120740) 1.15 Neighbours (1) (58808 80) 1.40 Batterses (1) Ogs Hom A Lincolnshire woman visits the home Dick a boxer

(978097-95)
2.10 20 000 Leagues User the Sea Conclusion. While trying kidiscover the secrets of Captain Nem Serie Arronax gains a surprising new Faboard the Neutline. Starting Michaeline (2/2) (1)

(7143585)
3.40 Trie World's Strong Man Lee
Bowers represents Britain (1576295)
4.10 The Great Outdoors (1 A family's
camping holiday is ruin when their
rowdy (elatives invite the less along.
Comedy, staring, John Joy, Dan
Aykroyd and Ametie Ben
Howard Deutch (1) (4588)
Howard Deutch (1) (4588)

Year (7143585)

5.35 Newsround Raview Year Presented by Chile Roger Mizmba and Kate Senderson (7) (38 6.00 Neighbours (1) (1) (6490) 6.25 News; Weather (1) (7464)

6.45 Regional News Magazir 6.55 Only Fools and Horse brothers arrive in Americ straight into disaster when year is stolen (f) (f) (602663 8.20 A. Question of Sport Christie (1) (5)

6.56 The National Lotterying Luck Stories The year's at people, featuring a round patrone which made the heads and some that made the head and some that didn't (1) (6)

9.00 The Echnological his Christmas pieces Billy's past life. Con-pieces Billy's past life. Con-Billy's past life. Con-Bil 10.15 News; Weather (T) (719092)

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CLASS H

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A STANCE

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10.45 Review of the Year Sue Lawley presents a look back at 1998 (J) (9732905) 12.00 Faces of Islam Session musician Danny Thompson (T) (8804431)

12.20am 42 Up Concluding the update of the real-life saga (2/2) (r) (T) (2036561)
1.35 They Might Be Glants (1972) A man suffering the delusion that he is Sherlock Holmes is treated by a woman psychiatrist called Dr Watson. Cornedy tantasy, starring George C. Scott and Joanne Woodward. Directed by Anthony Harvey (T) (6687238)

2.55 Weather (7032899) 3.00 BBC News 24 (1635967)

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BBC2

6.35am The Great Dictator (1940) Social saline, starring Chartie Chaplin (T) (71493011) 8.35 Fil.M: Anchors Aweigh (83255634) 10.50 Perfectly Frank (4133479) 10.55 The West (5971059) 12.20pm Classes for Kuds (1757856)

1.50 Rex the Runt (T) (50442092)

3.00 Perfectly Frank (1) (8439837) 3.05 Shooting the Century Insight into the armal of sound recording in the 1930s (2/2) (1) (2960498)

3.55 Perfectly Frank (T) (9604905) 4.00 Assault on a Queen (1966) A gang of wilains out to hijack a passenger ship. With Frank Sinetra, Virna Lisi and Tony

Poppea over his wife Ottavia? (2/5)

refting (T) (272498) 6.55 The Simpsons Bart and Lisa undermine a barbaric local tradition (T) (417634)

9.25 Rex the Runt Vince takes a shine to the vacuum cleener and Auntie Brenda teaches Rex, Wendy and Bob about sex (r) (T) (952363).



Joanna Lundey stars as a disruptive

10.15 A Rather English Marriage
Two widowers decide to move in together and resolve their differences. Things work out well until the arrival of an attractive stranger turns things upside down. Drama starring Albert Finney and Joanna Lumley (T) (469092)

11.55 Partectly Frank Paul Ross pays tribute

(1) (182450)

12.00 Some Came Running (1958) A

12.00 Some Came Running (1 MacLaine. Directed by Vincente Minnel (T) (79967948)

2.10am Weather (5238580) 2.15 Close

1.00 The Ashes Highlights of England's victory in the final Test (5337924) 1.40 Rex the Runt (r) (T) (50453108)

2.00 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Staying Alive — The Body in Balance (1) (94127)

Franciosa. Directed by Jack Donohue (1) 5.50 Poppee Will Nero choose the seductive

6.30 The Simpsons Bart joins the Junior Campers and persuades Homer to go

7.15 Star Trek: The Next Generation Worfs son Alexander visits the Enterprise, intending to make it his new home, but encounters some unexpected parental

opposition (r) (T) (517924) 8.00 Buffy the Vampire Slaver New series. Starring Sarah Michelle Geltar and Nicholas Brendon (T)

9.35 Never Mind the Buzzcocks Christmas special, with Mel C and Natalie Appleton

(T) (830295)



The three girls plan a party for New Year's Eve (10pm)

10.00 CBOICE Babes in the Wood Charlie gets a seasonal surprise (T) (359905) 10.45 ITN News; Weather (1) (980634)

11.00 HTV News and Weather (T) (896856) 11.10 CHOICE Warren Beatty: The South Bank Show Profile of Warren Beatty (T) (269671) 12.10am Bugsy (1991) Fact-based crime thriller, starring Warren Beatty as the New York gangster who turned Las Vegas into

a gamblers' paradise. Directed by Barry Levinson (1) (35382509) 2.45 No Secrets! (1982) The Army ventures into the African jurgle to rescue two astronauts held hostage by tribesmen. With Oliver Reed and Peter Cushing.

Directed by Peter Curran (866615) 4,20 ITV Nightscreen (25431509) 4.35 Coronation Street (r) (T) (46842431) 5.05 Hurricanes (7713325) 5.30 Bugs Bunny (9542344)

CENTRAL As HTV West except.

9.30-9.35am Central News (5979566) 12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather

1,00-1,30 Dinosaurs (28672) 3.35-3.40 Central News (6867030)

6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (255301) 11.00-11.10 Central News; Weather (296356) 4.20am Soundtrex (25431509) 4,35-5.05 Cybernet (46342431)

THE PERSONNEL PROPERTY.

As HTV West except: 9.30am Westcountry News (5979566:

9.33-9.35 Birthday People (5979566) 12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (6411030)

1.00-1.30 Emmerdale (28672) 3.35-3.40 Westcountry News; Weather (6867030) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (62943) 11.00-11.10 Westcountry News; Weather

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except. 12.15-12.30pm Meridian News; Weather

(3104547) 1.00-1.30 Hope and Gloria (28672) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (721) 6.30-7.00 House Humbers (301)

11.00-11.10 Meridian News; Weathe (896856) 4.35-5.05am The Movie Show Special: Crimson Tide (46842431)

ALEMA THE As HTV West except:

12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6499818) 12.20-12-30 Anglia News and Weath (6403011) rs (28672) 5.39-5.40 Anglia Air Watch (377382)

6.00-6.30 Anglia News Review of the Year; Weather (721) 6.30-7.00 Anglis News (3()1) 10.59 Anglia Air Watch (368498) 11.00-11.10 Anglia News and Weather

SEC

Starts: 6.00em Sesame Street (21977479)

7.00 Ovide (1 (4672001) 7.30 The Magic School Bus (1 (46716818) 8.00 The Big Breakfast (21352568) 10.00 The Bigger Breakfast; Saved by the Bell (21355653) 10.30 Series, Saved by the Sett 21330033 tu.30 Esrie, Indiana († (1) (46098276) 11.00 Medison (49422498) 11.30 Babylon 5 (f) (74143585) 12.30pm Planed Plant (f) (27307653) 1.00 Blue Christmas (r) (86558653) 1.15 Pl.M. North (f) (98768773) 2,50 Wine Hunt (5/6) (T) (69223721) 3.20 Tool Stories (5/6) (T) (49983943) 3.50 Fifteen-to-One: Grand Final (T) (84294924) 4.30 Planed Plant (42549276) 5.30 4.30 Planed Plant (42549276) 5.30 Countdown (T) (1963450; 6.00 Newyddion 6 (T) (19484547) 6.05 Heno (T) (49776498) 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (T) (33958943) 7.25 Sain Flagan: Ynys Ein Gorffennol (T) (T) (83173045) 8.00 Dewnsic Ar Y Dibyn (25621276) 8.45 Newyddion (T) (23848214) 9.00 Bernit Bits (T) (49402634) 9.30 Frasier (r) (1) (37202009) 10.00 Brookside (1) (95331108) 10.35 You Are Here (1) (48497108) 11.20 Rising Damp (r) (1) (66495189) 11.50 FiLM: Benny and Joon (11690943) 1.40am What's Eating Johnny Depp? (1) (70884388) 2.10 Diwedd

CHANNEL * 5.30am Sinbad the Sailor (9539324)

5.35 Two Stupid Dogs (r) (9572585) 7.00 Ovide (r) (27943)

7.30 The Magic School Bus In (9995/h 8.00 The Big Breakfast (85479) 10.00 The Bigger Breakfast; Saved by the Bell (38566)

10.30 Eerie, Indiana (r) (T) (35301) 11.00 Madison (7214) 11.30 Babylon 5 (T) (44653)

12.30pm Blabbermouth and Sticky Beak (T) 1.35 Binkey Can't Fly Animation (45882818)

1.50 Summit Fever Chronicle of the 59-year-old actor Brian Blessed's third Everest expedition (r) (T) (7753160) 2.50 Wine Hunt Matthew Jukes takes amateur wine enthusiasts to the

Burgundy region (5/6) (T) (4126585) 3.20 Tool Stories (5/6) (T) (1500045) 3.50 Fifteen-to-One: Grand Final (r) (1) (9148092)

4.30 Countdown (T) (9255108) 4.55 Rickl Lake With Jill Spergel, author of Firting for Success (T) (7574363)

5.30 Garden Doctors Part one. Quart Abbey on the Isle of Wight (1/2) (r) (1) (450) 6.00 Riverdance: A Journey The story of the successful frish dance troupe, revealing the events leading up to lead dancer Michael Flatley's shock departure (r) (T) (60585)

7.00 Heroes of Comedy: Tommy Cooper
The country's least successful — but best loved — magician comes under the spotlight (r) (T) (70769) 8.30 Brookside Ryan discovers he is under suspicion (T) (9214)

9.00 Stonehenge: The Secret of the Stones Conclusion of the documentary explaining how and why Stonehenge was built and who was responsible (2/2) (T) (3363) 10.00 You Are Here Rural cornedy, starring Matr Lucas (T) (357547)

10.45 Friends Rachel makes a life-changing decision (r) (1) (156030) 11.20 What's Eating Johnny Depp? Profile of the enigmatic actor (T) (347905)



Romantic comedy with Johnny Depp and Mary Stuart Masterson (11.50pm)

11.50 Benny and Joon (1993) Officeat romantic comedy, starring Johnny Depp as a charming stranger who disrupts a brother and sister's close relationship With Aiden Quinn and Mary Stuart Masterson. Directed by Jeremiah Chechik (T) (422856)

1.40am Alive and Kicking (1995) Jason
Fletting stars as a gay dancer who embarks on a relationship with an older man Drama, with Anlony Sher. Directed by Nancy Meckler (T) (800238) 3.30 Where the Sidewalk Ends (1950) A

New York cop beats a robbery suspect to death and tries to frame a local mobster for the crime. Starring Dana Andrews Directed by Otto Preminger (1) (499493)

CHANNEL 5 6.00am The Wind in the Willows (r)

6.25 Roobarb Ir), (37029943)

6.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (4213740) 7.00 Wimzie's House (r) (6656127) 7.30 Milkshake! (2295127) 7.35 Havaicazoo (r) (6850030)

B.00 George of the Jungle (f) (7261382) 8.30 Lassie: The Adventures of Neeke (1968) Youngsters adventure, starting Jed Allan. Directed by Dick Moder: 5 News Update (95122214)

9.50 My Story (6791301) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (7493491) 11.10 Leeza (r) (8137011)

12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (7271769) 12.30 Family Affairs Holly and Stobhan are asked to pose for some raunchy pictures; (r) (T) 5 News Update (2892479)

1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sheila gets out of Irouble (T) (6655498) 1.30 Wowfabgroovy (2884450) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (1165030)

2.30 Good Afternoon (2839905) 3.30 Damn the Defiant (1962) The commander of a British warship fighting in the Napoleonic campaign faces opposition from his second-in-command. Maritime drama, starring Alec Guinness.

Directed by Lewis Gifbert (T) (4739585) 5.25 Russell Grant's Postcards The portly presenter visits Austria (r) (34303769) 5.30 Name That Tune (2000856)



Sandra Huggett as Holly and Richard Hawley as Dave (6.30pm)

6.30 Family Affairs Dave and Holly share a kiss (T) (2081721)

7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (1143818) 7.30 The Best of Pepsi Part two. Dr Fox presents highlights of the show from the past year. (1) 5 News Update (2087905) 8.00 Storm Warning Foolage of real-life rescues (r) (T) (6231653)

9.00 Beyond the Call (TVM 1996) A young mother learns that her former sweetheart is on death row for the murder of a policeman, and rushes to comfort him in his last days. Emotional drama, starring Sissy Spacek, David Stratham and Arliss

Howard. Directed by Tony Bill.; (T) 5 News Update (38312769) 10.55 The Jack Docherty Show With the chef Antony Worrall Thompson (2527566)

11.35 Compromising Situations A doctor rakes advantage of a patient (7885905) 12.10am Russ Meyer's Cherry, Harry and Raquel (1969) Raunchy romp, starring Charles Napier as an overzealous sheriff

trying to juggle two relationships. Directed by Russ Meyer (54605899) 1.30 Live and Dangerous: Review of the Year Presented by Mark Webster and Kevin Day (12250528) 4.40 Club Class Cornedy (r) (81231783)

5.05 Move On Up (r) (19901054)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (7893290)

AND STATE

• For further listings see Saturday's Vision

SKY 1
8.00em Garres World (47160) 8.30 Street Sturies (80059) 9.00 The Simpsone (60011) 8.30 Estimonn Jim (8612) 10.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (9569) 11.00 The New Adventures of Superment (8000) 12.00pen The Oprah Whiting Show (95296) 1.00 Days of Our Lives (1665) 2.00 Selly Jessy Rephaet (83127) 3.00 Jenny Jones (14856) 4.00 Gully (9383) 5.00 Star Tiret Open Spool Nins (4244) 8.00 Married — With Chaldren (955) 8.30 Friends (8027) 7.00 The Simpsons (653) 7.30 The Simpsons (9721) 8.00 Stargate 9.31 (48244) 9.00 Stargate 9.31 (48244) 9.00 Stargate 9.31 (48244) 9.00 Stargate 9.31 (25450) 10.00 King of the Hall (58276) 10.30 Married — With Chaldren (97824) 11.00 Fistends (94082) 11.30 Star Treic Deep Space Nins (94082) 11.30 Long Pay (6572561)

SKY BOX OFFICE Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any firm telephone 0900 800888 SKY BCK OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) -Pace/Off (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)

SKY BOX OFFICE 3 [Transponder 59] George of the Jungle (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)

Home Alone 3 (1987)

FILMFOUR. 8.00pm Pepe Le Notic (1995) (21529672) 7.35 Lovely (737896) 8.00 Cedz Show (1994) (50616905) 10.10 Reservoir Dogs (1991) (4178653) 11.50 Cely out Pro-(1997) (4457)27) 1.20mm The Usual Suspects (1995) (360290) 3.15 Bad Lieutenant, 1992) (6967238) 4.50 Lovely

SKY PREMIER 6.00am Calm of Sansat (1987) (56905) 5.00 The Stateoner (1986) (1872) 10.00 The Prescher's Wife (1985) (5044408) 12.05pm Calm at Sunset (1987) (477769) 2.00 The Stateboard (Id & (1985) (1985) 3.35 The Stateoner (1986) (588030) 3.15 The Prescher's Wife (1986) (1814983) 7.15 Bany Norman's Fans of the Year (194188) 8.00 Dissos and Ms (1997) (32740) 10.00 The Ghoet and SKY MOVIEMAX

6.00am Divided by Hale (1996) (61769) 7.30 Coyolis Summer (1996) (76771565) 9.15 The Adventures of Pinocohio (1996) (44422943) 11.00 Bary Me in Nagara (1992) (41295) 1.00ps Whaltend Research (1990) (41059) 3.00 Divided by Hals (1996) (41855) 5.00 Coyole Summer (1996) (63108) 7.90 The Adventures of Pinocohio (1996) (55479) 9.00 Beautiful Givis (1987) (40769) 11.00 City of Industry (1996) (56420) 12.40am The Killing Jar (1996) (54431) 2.25 Dangaroen Ground (1997) (868945) 4.90 Evil Has a Face (1996) (46154) SKY CINEMA

A.00pm Let's Dance (1950) (7176127) 9.00 in Hame Only (1938) (9584189) 8.00 Clasopatre (1969) (7381194) 12.00em Seven Days In May (1964) (3203144) 2.00 Tony Rosen (1967) (8254793) 3.50 Who's Got the Action? (1962) (22073306)

9.00pm Doctor Zhiwago (1968) 193594721) 12.15mm The Dirty Dozen1967 (74938144) 3.00; The Cipcinnet Kid (1965) (14561344) S.DO Close SKY SPORTS 1

7.00em Sports Gentre 7.15 World Wresting Federation: Live Wire 8.16 Sports Centre 8.30 Recing News 8.00 Aerobics Oz Style 9.30 Footsell Special 11.00 ledde Scotlish 9,30 Footsell Special 11-10 Inside scores Footsell 1200pan Aerokica Cc Shyla 12-20-World Windsurling 1.00 Footself Special 2.50 Festrax 3,00 Sports (Inside Scottish Footself 5.00 World Wrestling Federation: Shoftpun 8.00 Sports Cartre 8.00 Urbelayable Sports 7.00-cates Marcel 2.70 Line Sportish Footbell Certre 6.30 Liptemental Scots 7.00-Fulloi Muncial 7.30 Live Scottish Footbell 10.00 Sports Centre 10.15 Trans World Sport 11.15 Rupby Union: Life of the Libra 1.15mm Sports Centre 1.30 Liptemental Sports 2.00 Trans World Sport 3.00 Sports Centre 3.15 Close

SKY SPORTS 2

8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 Fish TV 10.00 Sports Universed 11.00 World Windsuring 11.30 Fastina 12.00pm World Windsuring Federation. Shotgun 1.00 Live Daris. World Chempionship 5.00 V-Max 5.30 F20 5.00 Watersports World 7.00 Live Daris World Chempionship 11.00 Watersports World 11.00 Watersports Watersports World 11.00 W pionship 11.00 Watersports World am Scotlish Footbell 2.00 Sport Centre 2.15 Close SKY SPORTS 3

> 8.00am Live International Cricket 3.00pm International Cricket 6.30 Fish TV 6.30 International Cricket 10.30 Sky Sports sics Gold: Rugby Union 11.30 Close EUROSPORT 7.90am Edreme Sports 9.30 St4-bringing 11.00 Rafy .12.00pm litotersports 1.00 Combat Sports 2.00 Football 4.00 Bloopers 4.30 St4-bringing 6.00 Live Alpine Science 7.00 Live Equactionism 8.30 Dancing 9.30 Surio 11.00 Football 1.00am Close

UK GOLD 7.00em Crosmods 7.30 Neighbours 7.55
EastEnders 8.30 The Bit 9.00 The Bit 9.30
Pride and Prejudice 10.30 Angels 11.00
Dalles 11.55 - Neighbours 12.25pm
EastEnders 1.00 Pride and Prejudice 2.00
Dalles 2.55 The Bit 3.35 The Bit 3.55
EastEnders 4.30 Angels 4.55 File. 25
EastEnders 4.30 Angels 4.55 File. 25
Cartifolders 4.30 Angels 4.55 File. Composite 5.45
Keeping 1.D. Appearances 8.00 'Allo' Allo' 3.00 Cine Foot in the Grane 9.40 Men.
Belsang Badly 16.20 Bottom 11.00 The
Bit 11.30 The Bit 12.00em Bischadder's
Carrigines Carol 12.55 Dat's Army 2.00 No 796 Carol 1258 Dad's Army 2.00 No Place Like Home 2.30 Only When I Laugh

GRANADA PLUS 8.00mm The Box 7.00 On the Buees 7.30 8.00 mm The Box 7.00 On the Buses 7.30 The Farm Street Gang 8.00 That's My Boy 8.30 Second Thoughts 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 Emmedale Farm 10.00 flaysomething 11.00 Howai Frue-O 12.00 pin Otales Coronation Street 12.30 Epintedale Farm 1.00 How y Your Father? 1.30 West-Ing 2.00 thinty-comething 3.00 The Patam of Sherbock Holmas 4.00 The Professionals 5.00 Hawaii Frue-O 6.00 Emmedale Farm 6.30 Classic Coronation Street 7.00 Mission: Impossible 8.00 The Professionals 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 7.00 Mission: Impossible 8.00 The Professionals 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.93 Soz Lies 19.00 Uses Wide ed 9.30 San Los 10.00 lease Wild 7.00am Aerobics Dz Skyle 7.30 Sports Centre 7.45 Pacing News 8.15 Fastrex



CARLTON SELECT [CABLE] 8.00pm What's Cooking? 5.36 Gndlock 8.00 London Bridge 8.30 Rising Damp 7.00 Boon 8.00 Men of the World 8.30 Superclets 9.00 Shine On, Hervey Moo 19.00 Suider, Soldier 11.00 The Three Tenors: Impossible Dream 12.10mm Pull the Other One 12.40 Gndlock 1.00 Close

6.00em Bear in the Big Blue House 6.25 Classic Tooris 6.35 Gummi Boars 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 Tirrion and Pumbas 8.00 101 Dalmatians 8.26 Classic Toons 8.30 Hercules, The TV Show 8.00 At Toors 8.30 Hercules. The TV Show 9.00 Art Abusis 9.20 Ned's I levin 9.30 Februss 9.45 Pepper Ann 18.00 Buy Meets World 10.30 Smart Gay 11.00 Tean Angel 11.30 Fissh Forward 12.00per Doug 12.30 Drossurs 1.00 FILM: Mountain of Adventure 2.20 Classic Toors 2.30 New Adventures of Wirnie the Pooh 3.00 The Little Mormad 3.30 Timon and Pumbaa 3.45 101 Debressers 4.10 Mercules: TV Street

Years 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show 8.00 Fil.M: Return from Witch Mountain (1978) 9.30 Home Improvement 10.00 Close FOX KIDS NETWORK 6.00em Mowell: The New Adventures of the Jungle Book Day 7.00pm Close

6.00am Fraggle Rock 6.38 Murper Bebes 7.00 Watch You Dwn Wednesdey 1.30pm The Journey of Allen Sterne 2.00 The Secret World of Allen March 2.30 Kenar and Kel 3.00 Clenese Explains 8: All 3.30 Keblami 4.00 Hey Armold 4.30 Pugnats 8.00 Steto Saste 3.30 Kerpan and Kel 8.00 Sabine the Teerage Web 6.30 The Journey Of Allen Streep 2.00 Ches Sabins the Teerage Witch 6.30 The Journey Of Allen Strange 7,00 Close TROUBLE

NICKELODEON ...

7.00cm Hollyceis 7.30 USA High 2.00 Saxed by the Belt The New Class 3.30 Bings 9.45 Bengs 9.00 Hearthreak High 10.30 Hang Time 10.30 California Dreams 11.30 Seed Valley High 11.30 Ready of Not 12.00cm The Fresh Physics of Bel-Air

12.30 in the House 1.00 The Space Gris Present Gris Talk 2.00 Hollycalo: 2.30 California Dreams 3.00 Saved by the Bell The New Class 3.30 USA High 4.00 The Fresh Prince of Bell-An 4.30 in the House 5.00 Saved by the Belt The New Class 5.30 Sweet Valley High 8.00 Hong Time 8.30 Biast 7.00 USA High 9.45 What a Life 12.004m Close CHALLENGE TV

S-00pm Crosswirs 5.30 Challenge Proc Time 5.45 Family Fortunes 6.15 Challenge Prize Time 8.30 Cetchphrase 7.80 Challenge Proc Time 7.55 The Cent 7.45 Challenge Proc Time 9.15 The Cyclat Maze 8.00 Challenge Proc Time 9.15 Sinke 4 Lucky 8.45 Challenge Proc Time 9.15 Sinke 4 Lucky 8.45 Challenge Proc Time 10.00 Encharance UK 10.30 Challenge Proc Time 10.45 The Cooler 11.15 Challenge Proc Time 11.30 Carral Nrowledge 12.50cm Love at First Sight 1.00 Sinke 4 Lucky 1.30 The Pyramid Game 2.00 Crosswis 2.30 Family Portunes 3.00 Endurance UK 3.30 Blockbusters 4.00 Filteen to One 4.30 Give Us a Clue 5.00 Shopping with Screenshop BRAVO BRAVO

5-30pm The Extrements 8.00 Real Stones of the Highway Patrol 8.20 Bushido 8.00 LAPD 9.39 Cops 10.00 Extreme Champoniship Westling 10.30 Scary Sex. Sery Sor's Dayma 11.00 FLM: Warhook (1989) 1.00pm Sex Bytes 1.35 Scary Sex Sexy Sor's Drama 2.05 Extreme Champoniship Westling 2.36 Bushido 3.05 FILM: The Punisher (1990) 9.00 Cops 5.30 Fresky Stones 6.00 Close

7.00pm Ctueless 7.30 Desmond's 8.00 Roseanne 8.30 Just Shoot Me 8.00 Cytel 8.30 Senteld 10.00 Frester 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Festival of Fun | 11.30 Theory 11.00 Festival of Fun | 11.30 The Larry Sonders Show 12.00em Lale Night with David Leiterman 1.00 Text 1.30 The Critic 2.00 Dr Kat 2.20 Sop 3.00 Hooperman 3.20 Nightstand 4.00 Close THE SCHOOL CHANNEL

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

SATELLITE Sprn-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30am Bloomberg Intermedien Television 8.00 Sightings 9.00 Battlester Galactica 10.00 Quentum Leap 11.00 Dark Shadons 11.30 The Ray Brachuy Thesica 12.00pm The Tentigit Zone 12.30 The Twidght Zone 1.00 Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 PILM: Twenty Milition Milles to Earth (1957) 3.00 Battletter Gelectica 4.00 Amazing Stones 4.30 Mysteries, Magic and Mysteries, 5.00 Signings 6.00 Time Trax 7.00 Cuartum Loop 8.00 PS Factor Chronides of the Paranormal 10.00 FILM: Monofith (1983) 11.50 Sc-Fi Charnel Special 12.00am PSI Factor Chronides of the Paranormal 1.00 FILM: Monofith (1983) 2.50 Sc-Fi Charnel Special 3.00 The Twifight Zone 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE

DISCOVERY

8.00mm New Yankee Workshop 6.30 New Yankee Workshop 7.00 New Yankee Workshop 7.30 New Yankee Workshop 8.30 New Yankee Workshop 8.30 New Yankee Workshop 9.25 The Home and Losuro House 9.30 New Yankee Workshop 10.00 New Yankee Workshop 8.30 New Yanke New Yankee Workshop 10.30 New Yankee Workshop 11.00 New Yankee Workshop 11.20 New Yankee Workshop 12.20 pm New Yankee Workshop 12.20 in the Workshop 1.00 in the Workshop 1.30 in the Workshop 2.30 in the Workshop 2.30 in the Workshop 3.30 in

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 Walker's World 5.00 Connections 2 by James Burke 5.30 Jurassica 6.00 Anneal James Burke 5.30 Junasson 8.00 Annea Doctor 6.30 Sharks Under the Sun 7.30 Beyond 2000 8.00 Twister Mystery of Twisters 8.30 Wonders of Weather 9.00 Chasers of Tomado Alley 11.00 How Did They Build Their? 11.30 Animal X 12.00am The Easy Riders 1.00 Connections 2 by es Burke 1,30 Anceni Warnors 2.00

12.00am Hunlers 1.00 Arenal Doctor 1.30 12.00pm Hunter 1.00 Annual Doctor 1.30 Australia Wild 2.00 All Bert TV 2.30 Human/Nature 3.30 Zoo Story 4.00 Jack Human/Nature 5.30 Australe Wild file SOS 5.00 Per Resours 5.30 Australe Wild file SOS 6.00 Annual Doctor 8.30 Profiles O Nature 9.30 Emergency Vels 10.00 Wildfile SOS 10.30 Crocodie Hunters 11.00 Annual X 11.30 Emergency Vels 12.00em Close NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm A Lozard's Summer 7.30 Lunge Lozards 8.00 Paying for the Piper 9.00

Rading the Rais 10.00 Mory Pigs 11.00 Beeman 11.39 Snakebite! 12.00mm Mystery of the Crop Cacles 12.30 Mystery of the Nazca Lines HISTORY

4.00pm Battlefire. Scriy 4.30 Victory at Sea. D-Day 5.00 Classic Cars Mercedes 6.00 Anciem Mystenes 7.00 Brute Force Air War in Vietnam 7.30 Edward Windsor

CARLTON FOOD [CABLE]

3.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Food for Though 10.00 Feasts of the World 10.30 Worral Thompson Cooks 11.00 What's Cooking? 11.30 Coron's Kirchen College 12.00pm Food Network Daily 12.30 Retrospectares 1.00 Food for Thought 1.30 From the Ground Up 2.00 Carbbiers Light 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Surpres Chets 3.30 Coron's Kirchen College 4.00 Thoroughty Modern Brass 4.30 Cirez Bruno Thoroughty Modern Brass 4.30 Cirez Bruno

LIVING Show 8.50 The Jerry Springer Show 10.40 Michael Cole 11.30 Brookside 12.00pm Special Babbes 12.30 Reacus 911 1.00 Ready, Steedy, Cook 1.35 Carl Cook, Worll Cook 2.10 The Jerry Springer Show 3.00 FILM: Delay Kengon (1947) 5.00 Beyond Beld, Fact or Fiction 6.35 Carl Cook, World Cook 6.10 The Jerry Springer Show 7.00 Rescue 911 7.30 Beyond Balef. Fact or Fiction 5.35 Carl Cook, World Cook 6.10 The Jerry Springer Show 7.00 Rescue 911 7.30 Beyond Balef. Fact or Fiction 8.00 Michael Call 9.00 Haifey

S. Dosen Mansch, 5.30 Music Yerre 6.00 Cux and About 6.30 Beegi Ne Pg 7.00 Jasarán 7.30 News 8.00 India Business Report 8.30 Salasto 9.00 Rishtey: The Love Stones 10.00 Parchivan Mausern 11.00 Aashana 11.30 Parawipara 12.00 pm Ps.M.: Hindi Movie: Chit Chor 3.00 Chaio Cinema 3.30 Zee Health Show 4.00 Campus 4.30 Ex Minute 5.00 Special 5.36 Gunvain 6.00 Top of the Tops 6.30 Benegi April Bast 7.00 Bast Ban Jaya 7.30 Fun Film Style 8.00 News 8.30 Armans 8.00 Top Unishidaera 12.00 m News 12.30 Tandoori Massala 1.00 Jee Salasto 1.30 Reinst 2.00 Film Gujard Movie: Santer Rangeelf 4.30 Reich Scichs

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 1998

Headley takes the individual honours in dramatic 12-run victory in fourth Test

England hit back to keep series alive

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN MELBOURNE

IT WAS payback day in Melbourne as an arrogant Australia side, accustomed to the tame compliance of a generation of English losers, sustained a defeat of the type natented by their Ashes opponents. Australia, requiring only 175, lost their last seven wickets for 32 and England took the fourth Test by a mere

This was only England's second victory in Australia since 1986-87, when they last held the Ashes. In that time, they have lost eight of the 14 Tests played here. But for bad weather in Brisbane, they would have been trailing 3-0 even be-fore this match but now, remarkably, they can share the series if they win again in Sydnev next week.

They will go there with spirits lifted dramatically. Only a week ago, they experienced the nadir of their tour with a humiliating defeat in Tasmania that horrified the coach, David Lloyd, and the captain, Alec Stewart. Lloyd reconciled himself to standing down before the next Test series; Stewart probably felt like doing the

Now, with a capriciousness beyond even the usual habits of this oscillating team, they have turned the series around and created a Sydney showpiece out of what promised to be a stale and irrelevant finale. The worst pitch and worst weather of the series produced the best match, a baffling patchwork of heroics and howlers spoilt only by the rain that prevented play on Boxing Day, when 80,000 might have

As the England players celebrated raucously, with Dean Headley's six wickets their obvious first toast. Stewart was understandably jubilant. "[hope we will read about this on the back pages of the Australian newspapers and not the inside." be chartled. "We always thought 175 would be a competitive target, because Australia, great side as they are, have sometimes struggled

Our top five batsmen all got be-tween 18 and 43, when all it needed was for one to go on to

"Our whole attitude in the past two hours was poor. A Test match can change in half an hour and if one side starts thinking about what they are going to do after play, it hapother team out there playing for pride. Sometimes, a team needs this kind of shock but I

don't like it when I'm captain." There are some who believe an environment of conspiracy and corruption had more to do with it and at least one angry reader phoned Melbourne's daily broadsheet last night to insist it was the worst case of match-fixing he had seen. England will be rightly in-



'If he never takes another Test wicket, Dean Headley will long recall this day' Michael Henderson, page 37

this Test because, ultimately, they grasped an opportunity. Several others had eluded them during three of the longest and most dramatic playing days Test cricket can have

Controversy clouded the victory on more than one front. Glenn McGrath, the Australia fast bowler, was disciplined for "crude and abusive lanthe match referee. John Reid, who had already responded sympathetically to Stewart's concern over unreasonable anomalies imposed by new regulations regarding

Reid has been slow to move against McGrath, whose offensive and gratuitous bad-mouthing of English batsmen sets a sorry example to the young, and his action yesterday was disappointingly half-hearted. After a systematic going over of England's No 11, Alan Mullally, involving much swearing and posturing, McGrath escaped with a fine of 30 per cent of his match fee (about £1,000), suspended for four months. England will believe that there was more iustice in the fact that Mullally's subsequent, aggrieved blows made the difference be-

tween winning and losing. For the good of the game in the long term, Reid must be more decisive on the issue of added time. Theoretically, the new regulation is admirable on occasions such as this, when the entire first day was lost to rain, but it had plainly not been thought through.

Play on Monday continued for almost eight hours - not least because of England's abominable over-rate — and that marathon was exceeded yesterday. The game was won as the day entered its ninth hour but, if the extra half-hour claimed by Australia had been completed. England would have been in the field for 44: hours without a break.

This ludicrous prospect was the outcome of inflexibility, which involved the tea interval being taken when the Australia innings ended and the evening session thus being extended for a second time.

It is not just undesirable but unhealthy for a team to be asked to field for sessions longer than 21/2 hours in Test crick et and Stewart was swift to make his point to Reid last night. "I have spoken to him but I think he has already made some recommenda tions," he said.

Taylor was sceptical about the benefits of added time. "The rules need looking at," he said. "You don't want Tests finishing at that time when you have already started early You've got to draw the line somewhere or you'll end up starting at nine in the morning and playing until nine at

England will settle for that if it produces more results like this. But, as Stewart emphasised: "We have got to main-tain this level of performance through a game. We've got to make sure this is not just a

> Match report, page 36 John Woodcock, page 36 Full scoreboard, page 36



Gough, who has bowled well but without luck throughout the series, is exultant after striking the final blow in the memorable victory yesterday

Gallagher holds hands up to error over Oakes

are going to get in touch with him and ask him to reconsider

he is a man -- a man's man --

their hands if they've made a

mistake. They don't hide

personal approach, which

would have been contrary to

FA rules, was not needed.

Gallagher stood up and

a similar position yesterday

after the dismissal of Patrick

Vieira during the 1-0 victory

Arsenal found themselves in

his verdict.

owned up.

MICHAEL OAKES, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, is to have his controversial dismissal in the match against Blackburn Rovers on Boxing Day expunged from the records. Dermot Gallagher, the referee, reviewed the incident on video over the weekend and has asked for the sending-off to be annulled. The Football Association will confirm the decision later this week.

Oakes was shown the red card by Gallagher during the 2-1 defeat at Ewood Park after catching the ball and appearing to carry it out of his area. After Gailagher consulted with Dave Horlick, his assistant, he sent off Oakes for the offence of deliberate handball. However, video evidence

later proved that Oakes had released the ball fractionally before his momentum took him out of the penalty area. Gallagher realised the mistake and discussed the matter with Philip Don, the referees officer of the FA Premier League, on Sunday.
"Dermot looked at it and

also spoke with Dave Horlick," Don said yesterday. "Had he seen the incident at the time as he did on tape, he would not have sent off Oakes. it was not even handball. It was a genuine error of judgment, just one of those unfortunate incidents that happens now and again."

Gallagher has sent his match report to the FA with a covering letter that explains his actions on the night and subsequent withdrawal of the red card. "The FA will now act

accordingly." Don said. Villa officials had planned to speak to Gallagher in an

attempt to persuade him to against Charlton Athletic at change his mind. "Technical-The Valley on Monday. ly, we can't appeal." John Gre-Vieira was sent off for vio gory, the Villa manager, had said, "but I gather our people

lent conduct by Uriah Rennie after appearing to elbow Neil Redfearn, the Charlton midfield player, in the face early in the second half. However, "Knowing Dermot as I do, video replays later showed that Vieira made contact only and men stand up and hold up with Redfearn's shoulder and that Redfearn's reaction - he clutched his face - was perbehind bureaucracy and I hope he sees sense." Villa's haps exaggerated.

Arsenal have announced

their intention to appeal and have three days in which to lodge a claim for wrongful

Vieira's premature departure could land Arsenal with a £50,000 fine, which was imposed on the club during the summer - but suspended for a year — after their poor disciplinary record last season. They amassed 95 bookings, 70 in the FA Carling Premiership, and six dismissals.

They have fared little better this season. Vieira was the sixth Arsenal player to be sent off, following in the disgraced footsteps of Emmanuel Petit. Lee Dixon, Martin Keown. Ray Parlour and Gilles Grimandi, and they have collected 50 cautions in all competitions.

The FA could invoke the suspended fine when it reviews Arsenal's record during the summer. "Any club with a poor one is likely to have a fine, imposed," an FA spokesman said yesterday. "Arsenal have a fine hanging over them from last season and it is possible that it may be enforced."

> Hull's bopes, page 34 Midweek View, page 34

Ward joins Kidd's revival at Blackburn

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

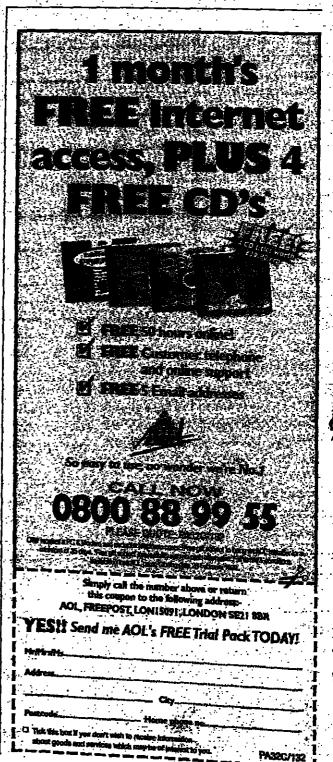
ASHLEY WARD yesterday became Brian Kidd's second signing since he took over as manager of Blackburn Rov-ers, joining the club for £4.5 million from Barnsley. Ward is seen as the ideal replacement for Chris Sutton, who is out for six weeks after injur-Aston Vilia on Boxing Day. Ward, 28, is likely to make his debut in the FA Cup third-round tie at home to Charlton

on Saturday. The two clubs agreed the transfer fee last week, with John Dennis, the Barnsley chairman, finally giving in to Blackburn after resisting bids from Leicester and Leeds.

Ward had made his intention to return to the Premiership sooner rather than later' clear, although he refused to state publicly that he wanted to leave Barnsley. He under-lined his determination, however, by declining to sign an extension to his contract

After the most traumatic ten days of his four-month stint as manager of Newcastle Unit-ed, Rund Guillt will find himself in the unfamiliar position of delivering good news to the Tyneside populace this morning when he mivels Didier Domi, the left-sided French defender, as his second new signing at St James' Park.

Unlike his compatriot, Ibrahim Ba, whose proposed transfer from AC Milan broke down last week, Domi. 20. sailed through his medical yesterday, concluding a drawnout £4 million deal with Paris



bu:

batting fourth." Mark Taylor, the Australia making up lost time. captain, said his team "got lazy" in conceding a game for which England's initial odds were 9-1. We played badly.

No 1601

ACROSS 3 Supplied; given (that) (8) 7 Members of household (6) 8 Slightly worried (6) 9 Lowered (light level) (6) 10 Gunman in nest (6) 11 Exalted (4) 13 Aqueous substance (5) 15 Standard; stain (4) 17 Crudely bright (6) 18 Arbitrary (6) 19 Church (robing) room (6) 20 Cowardly (6) 21 Supporter of king (8)

DOWN I The Heavenly Twins (6)

founder (6)

2 Cordiality (6) 3 Leontes' daughter (Winter's Tale) (7) 4 Wine-merchant (7) 5 Non-Israel Jewish population (8) 6 First light (8) 11 Morning after effect (8) 12 An island: seaman's woolly

(8) 13 Profligate type (7) 14 Pull out (7) 15 US surrealist photographer 16 An island; a scholarshin

SOLUTION TO NO 1600 ACROSS: 1 Luck 3 Crossbow 9 Canoe 10 Buoyant 11 Dutiful 12 Duff 14 Tallis 16 Degree 18 Lava 19 Riposte 22 Epithet 23 Plato 24 Tendency 25 Mesh DOWN: 1 Lucidity 2 Constellation 4 Rabble 5 Spondee 6 Beaufort Scale 7 Wits 8 Serf 13 Behemoth 15 Ivanhoe 17 Critic 20 Pupa 21 Belt

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